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Daily Report

East Asia

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III

Southeast Asian Economies Grew in 1988

*BK2404004389 Hong Kong AFP in English 2022 GMT
23 Apr 89*

[Text] Manila, April 24 (AFP)—The economies of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand continued to strengthen in 1988, posting an average gross domestic product (GDP) growth of seven percent, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in its annual report released here Monday [24 April].

The ADB report, distributed in advance of the bank's 22nd annual meeting in Beijing on May 4-7, showed that the four Southeast Asian nations improved upon their 5.3 percent average GDP growth in 1987.

But inflation rates increased in all four countries, led by the Philippines at 9.4 percent, followed by Indonesia (7.4 percent), Thailand (3.7 percent) and Malaysia (2.7 percent).

The relatively sharp inflation jump was attributed to the continuing economic growth in the four countries, as well as increased demand, depreciation of currency and wage increases.

Thailand showed the best performance with an 11 percent GDP growth in 1988 compared to 8.4 percent in 1987, the bank said, noting the growth was due to surging foreign investment that fuelled manufactured exports, "booming tourism and strong agricultural performance."

But it said this growth was starting to overtax Thailand's transportation, power and communications infrastructures, especially around Bangkok.

The Philippines also posted impressive GDP growth of 4.7 and 6.6 percent in 1987 and 1988 respectively, a development the Manila-based bank attributed to a surge in consumer spending, as well as investment and export growth.

Indonesia and Malaysia, the two oil-producing countries, also had strong economic figures, with Indonesia's GDP growing by 3.6 and 4.1 percent in 1987 and 1988, while Malaysia's GDP grew by 5.2 and 7.8 percent in those years.

Their recovery was attributed to increased demand for manufactured exports, rising non-oil commodity prices, and strong domestic consumption and investment spending despite last year's fall in oil prices.

The combined four nation's exports were up 11 percent last year, led by Thailand's 38 percent increase. Imports to the four grew 23 percent, Thailand again topping the list with a 49 percent hike.

All four countries undertook policy reforms in 1988 to shift their reliance away from primary and oil-based commodities toward "diversified and efficient industrial structures," the ADB said.

Many of these policies involved industrial deregulation and promotion of the private sector, along with further trade liberalization.

Agricultural production recovered strongly in three of [the] countries. Malaysia suffered from lower production of sawlogs and rubber.

The four nations are widely predicted by economists as the next to be classified as newly-industrialized countries.

But the generally rosy report carried a warning that economic growth for the four countries could weaken this year due in part to a drop in exports to industrialized nations, which should experience slower growth.

Recent production quotas of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could spell lower prospects for oil-producing Indonesia and Malaysia but were expected to fail, the report said, because of Iran and Iraq's need for funds to finance post-war reconstruction.

Thailand's infrastructural bottleneck will also moderate growth, but the Philippines' consumption and investment-led recovery is expected to result in further industrial activity and the economy there is forecast to grow at an even higher rate in 1989, the ADB said.

Japan

Takeshita Announces Intent To Resign

Apologizes to Nation

OW2504030389 Tokyo KYODO in English 0249 GMT
25 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita announced his intention Tuesday to resign and apologized to the nation for the loss of political trust as a result of the Recruit scandal.

Speaking at a nationally televised news conference, Takeshita said he will step down after getting the Fiscal 1989 budget through the Diet.

Takeshita appeared at the news conference held at the prime minister's official residence after telling senior executives of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] of his intention to resign in a hurriedly summoned meeting of the LDP leadership.

Takeshita, in answer to a question, also said he plans to proceed with his planned visit to five Southeast Asian countries beginning April 29.

LDP sources had earlier said the government crisis had forced Takeshita to cancel the trip.

Blames Tax Reform, Recruit Scandal

OW2504081289 Tokyo KYODO in English 0350 GMT
25 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita is stepping down from power in disgrace amid mounting popular distrust of the nation's political leaders stemming chiefly from the widening Recruit scandal.

The April 1 imposition of the unpopular 3 percent consumption tax made matters worse.

Calls for Takeshita's resignation emerged from the business world and even from his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), particularly its junior members, as the election for the House of Councillors this summer is approaching.

After suffering a defeat in a House of Councillors by-election in Fukuoka Prefecture in February, the LDP saw a big swing against it in a number of bitterly fought local elections, with the Recruit scandal and the consumption tax the main issues.

The Recruit scandal, which was first exposed to the public in June 1988, has expanded day by day, involving many top LDP members, some opposition Diet members, senior government officials and business leaders.

The disclosure over the weekend of a 50 million yen loan to Takeshita from the information business giant Recruit Co. dealt a decisive blow to Takeshita, political analysts said.

This meant the prime minister had received a total of at least 200 million yen in contributions, stock trading profits and loans from the Recruit group between 1985 and 1987.

During his nearly 17 months in power since November 6, 1987, Takeshita marked up a lot of domestic and diplomatic achievements.

What was considered to be his biggest domestic political achievement was the December 1988 Diet approval of a sweeping tax reform scheme, which had been pending for the past decade.

The tax reform plan included the imposition of the 3 percent new indirect tax on almost all types of goods and services, to be offset with a large scale income and corporate tax cut.

On the diplomatic front, Takeshita settled tough talks with Japan's largest trading partner, the United States, over opening of the nation's farm and construction markets.

Ironically, however, those achievements, coupled with the widening stock trading and bribery scandal, led to Takeshita's downfall.

Farmers, who with their disproportionate voting power were traditionally the main backers for the LDP, are strongly dissatisfied with liberalization of farm trade.

Takeshita's public approval ratings in polls conducted by the mass media continued to decline from earlier this year.

KYODO NEWS SERVICE's latest poll, taken on April 13-14, put the prime minister's rating at an all-time low of 3.9 percent.

The pace of decline was fast, with the rating plunging from 58.6 percent in November 1987 to 35.9 percent in December 1988, 33.4 percent in January, and to 12.6 percent in March.

Other recent media polls have put the ratings for the cabinet at 9 percent (MAINICHI SHIMBUN), 13.1 percent (NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN), 15 percent (ASAHI SHIMBUN) and 16 percent (NHK TV/Radio).

In addition, as much as 82 percent of the Japanese people surveyed opposed the new tax, compared with only 5 percent who favored it, another KYODO survey showed earlier this month.

In the Diet, the opposition parties have continued their concerted boycott since March 8 of deliberations on the 60.4 trillion yen national budget for fiscal 1989, forcing the government to compile a 9.2 trillion yen stopgap budget for the first 50 days of the fiscal year, which began April 1.

Unless the government can pass the budget through the House of Representatives by the end of this week, it will be forced to compile another stopgap budget.

The ruling and opposition parties had last-minute talks to break the Diet stalemate on Monday, but the opposition camp refused to budge from its demand that former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone be summoned to the Diet to testify about his alleged role in the Recruit scandal.

Irritation with the government has spread to the business world.

Takashi Ishihara, head of Keizai Doyukai, the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, one of the country's four major business organizations, urged Takeshita last week to resign after the legislature approved the budget.

One of the three top LDP officers, Michio Watanabe, said the LDP is seeking to determine the best way to go into the House of Councillors election this summer, which was taken to be a hint that Takeshita would resign.

LDP Secretary General Shintaro Abe, who is Takeshita's political ally and is also implicated in the Recruit scandal, has remained in hospital because of gallstones.

Plans To Step Down After Budget Passage

*OW2504015589 Tokyo KYODO in English 0147 GMT
25 Apr 89*

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, citing his inability to get Diet approval of the government budget, will resign once the budget clears the legislature, Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi said Tuesday.

Obuchi said Takeshita outlined his resignation plan in a hurriedly summoned meeting of top executives of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Diet business has been stalled over opposition demands for former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to give testimony in a Diet panel on his alleged links with the Recruit stock trading scandal.

Takeshita and other senior LDP figures have admitted receiving donations from Recruit.

Takeshita's impending resignation had little immediate effect on trading in Tokyo's stock and foreign exchange markets.

The dollar opened fractionally higher at 131.65 yen, while the Nikkei stock average rose 212.32 yen to 33,018.24 yen within the first 15 minutes of trading.

Takeshita told the top party leaders that he is stepping down in order to get the fiscal 1989 budget through the Diet.

The government is currently operating on a provisional budget as Diet business has been stalled since early March over a confrontation between the ruling and opposition parties over the probe into the widening Recruit scandal and the links of senior politicians with Recruit.

A source within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party said the whole Takeshita cabinet will resign once the budget is approved by parliament.

It is not clear, however, whether Takeshita will visit five Southeast Asian countries between April 29 and May 7 as scheduled.

Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno told reporters that he has asked Takeshita to go ahead with the diplomatic schedule and that Takeshita will decide it later.

Masayoshi Ito, a former foreign minister and currently head of the LDP's Executive Council, is tipped to succeed Takeshita, who came to office in November 1987.

A decision on Ito's nomination is likely to come during the upcoming "Golden Week" holidays, LDP sources close to Takeshita said earlier.

They said Takeshita wants the budget to clear the lower house of the Diet before the end of the week.

The LDP commands a large majority in both houses of the Diet, but the opposition refusal to participate in Diet deliberations has sent the government budget into a deadlock.

The Recruit scandal, which surfaced last summer, involves the sale of underpriced stocks and large political donations by Recruit Co. to politicians, government officials and influential public figures in a widespread influence-buying operation.

Thirteen people, including two vice ministers and senior executives of NTT [Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation], Japan's largest telecommunications company, have been arrested for alleged bribery.

Three ministers in the Takeshita cabinet have also resigned over the scandal.

Takeshita himself has admitted receiving about 200 million yen in funds from Recruit, through profits realized in stock trading, political contributions, and loans.

The political funds passed through Takeshita's political support groups, and the stock transactions were conducted in the names of a Takeshita relative and an aide.

Takeshita offered a profound apology to the nation at the start of the news conference, saying that the widening Recruit scandal has caused the public to distrust politicians.

The Recruit scandal, which surfaced last summer, involves the sale of underpriced stocks and large political donations by Recruit Co., a major information service conglomerate, to politicians, government officials and influential public figures in a widespread influence-buying operation.

Takeshita himself has admitted receiving about 200 million yen in funds from Recruit, through profits realized in stock trading, political contributions and loans.

Thirteen people, including two vice ministers and senior executives of NTT, Japan's largest telecommunications company, have been arrested for alleged bribery.

Three ministers in the Takeshita cabinet have also resigned over the scandal.

Takeshita declined to disclose at the press conference who he has in mind to succeed him as prime minister but LDP sources said Masayoshi Ito, a former foreign minister and currently head of the LDP's Executive Council, is a clear favorite.

There is also speculation that some Takeshita supporters favor the appointment of Shin Kanemaru, a former deputy prime minister and Takeshita's political mentor.

The LDP commands a comfortable majority in the Diet, and the leader of the party automatically serves as prime minister.

Takeshita, who came to office in November 1987, emphasized his own political responsibility during the 27-minute news conference.

Takeshita's impending resignation, however, had little immediate impact on trading in Tokyo's stock and foreign exchange markets.

The dollar opened fractionally higher at 131.65 yen, and finished the morning session at 131.30 yen, just 0.08 yen below Monday's close.

The stock market was also buoyed by the news of Takeshita's intended resignation, with the Nikkei stock average rising 212.32 yen to 33,018.24 within the first 15 minutes of trading.

Opposition parties were surprised by Takeshita's intended resignation. They said, however, they plan to continue pressing their demand for a parliamentary probe into the Recruit scandal.

The concerted opposition stand has stalled Diet business since early March, forcing the government to operate on a provisional budget for the current fiscal year, which began April 1.

The Diet impasse centers on an opposition demand that former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone be summoned to the Diet as a sworn witness to testify on his alleged links with Recruit.

There has been persistent rumor that Nakasone may have influenced the purchase of U.S.-made supercomputers by NTT several years ago and their subsequent resale to Recruit.

Nakasone was among the politicians who bought bargain-priced stocks of Recruit Cosmos, Recruit's real estate subsidiary.

Speaking at a separate news conference, Justice Minister Masami Takatsuji said public prosecutors will continue their probe into the Recruit scandal.

Announces Resignation to Press

OW2504060289 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0228 GMT 25 Apr 89

[Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita 25 April news conference given at his official residence in Tokyo—live; Takeshita sits at small table facing numerous reporters and cameramen; reporters asking questions not identified]

[Text] [Takeshita] Well then, may I?

First, allow me to read a simple text I have prepared, entitled "To the Japanese People."

The serious spread of distrust in politics today brought about by the Recruit issue is an extremely grave crisis for our country's parliamentary democracy. In my capacity as the highest responsible official of the government and the president of the LDP, I fully realize the responsibility for causing such a situation. In particular, I profoundly apologize to the people for the fact that suspicions related to those close to me have further intensified distrust in politics. To restore the people's faith in politics, I have personally decided to resign my post.

However, prospects for Diet deliberations on the fiscal 1989 budget, which has great significance for the people's livelihood, have remained unclear even today. I intend to exert all efforts to facilitate the passage of the budget for the new fiscal year. After accomplishing this task, I will implement my decision to resign.

I sincerely hope for the people's understanding and cooperation.

That is all.

[Question] First, the secretariat [group of correspondents assigned to the prime minister's office] wishes to ask questions on four points.

[Takeshita] Yes.

[Question] You have just decided to resign. Could you frankly express your feelings at this moment?

[Takeshita] You are asking me to frankly express my feelings at this moment. There is nothing more to say about my feelings other than what is contained in the text I have just read.

[Question] Please specify again when you decided to resign and when you will actually resign. The statement you just made said that the time of your actual resignation would come after the passage of the draft budget.

[Takeshita] I think your question pertains to when the decision I have just announced will be implemented in actual deed—that is, when the formalities for the general resignation of the cabinet will be performed. As I just said, after the passage of the Fiscal 1989 budget. As to the former question of when I arrived at the decision, I have always said that the question of whether to resign or to stay is one upon which a decision should be made suddenly one day, at a particular moment. Although there was a process, it should certainly be understood as a decision made this morning.

[Question] Do you think that with your resignation, the distrust in politics among the people brought about by the Recruit incident can be remedied?

[Takeshita] With my resignation, I have made clear where the responsibility lies. As to how the people's thinking will change in view of this, I do not think it is proper for me to speculate.

[Question] It might be early to ask this question, but does the prime minister have a successor in mind?

[Takeshita] As in the past, when an LDP president resigns, there are procedures to follow. I do not think that someone who is resigning should make projections about his successor.

[Unidentified person] Other reporters are free to ask questions if they have any.

[Question] May I? Mr Prime Minister, I will ask frankly. You are leaving your post after 1 year and 6 months. You must have mixed feelings. I will ask frankly, what is the most prominent of those feelings? Is it regret?

[Takeshita] No. From the very beginning, I took upon myself not to reveal my emotions. I do not feel any sort of regret.

[Question] What then is your feelings?

[Takeshita] I think it is calmness after acting in accordance with my own judgment.

[Question] On the question of the successor, do you think that he should have nothing to do with political funds coming from the Recruit Co?

[Takeshita] I think that constitutes making projections. There are proper procedures for electing the party president. I believe someone who is resigning ought not to make projections and dictate conditions.

[Question] What will you do about the ASEAN visit from 29 April?

[Takeshita] Oh, as to the question of the ASEAN tour, I have certainly made careful considerations. I have held discussions with those concerned. From the viewpoint of consistency and continuity in foreign policy, I will embark on the visit as scheduled.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, I will change the subject. Regarding the question of your successor, are you thinking of leaving the matter entirely to someone else? Considering it would be difficult for you to handle the problem personally, does that mean that you will leave the matter entirely to someone else and let him deal with it?

[Takeshita] No, I am not thinking of that right now.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, on the Recruit issue, a while ago you apologized to the people. Even if you yourself will resign, do you think that it is necessary to continue a thorough investigation to allay the people's suspicions?

[Takeshita] As I have always said....[changes thought] Specifically, concerning the proper way to settle the issue, this involves questions of criminal law and questions of the Securities Transaction Law. As to so-called political and moral responsibility, I think it is necessary to make a clear settlement. With regard to questions of criminal law, I continue to believe that the prosecution authorities are dealing with them rigorously and properly.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, on the question of promoting political reform—you said a while ago that you would resign after the upper house passes the budget—until then, would you continue to promote political reform? Please tell us the prospects and your own determination.

[Takeshita] As the prime minister of the cabinet, I have requested a number of knowledgeable persons to give their opinions. It is time to hear what they have to say. I have great expectations of them. Based on this advice, I think we ought to take appropriate measures. Regarding matters that involve the amendment of existing laws, I will request the party to set the guidelines. As to legislation, it seems that it would be better to leave this to the new prime minister. I intend to do what I can while I am still the chief of the executive branch.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, you have engaged in the task of realizing the creation of furusato [hometown] from the time you assumed office. How will you handle this issue from now on?

[Takeshita] With regard to this matter, this issue germinated as a policy issue in the supplementary budget for Fiscal 1988. Subsequently, it has been included in the Fiscal 1989 draft budget. With the passage of the budget, I wish to create a solid foundation. As a politician, since this was a policy issue I brought up during my term of office as prime minister, I believe that the creation of furusato should be my life's work.

[Question] One of the reasons for the latest drop in public ratings of the cabinet lies in the introduction of the consumption tax system. The consumption tax was devised late last year; what do you think of the consumption tax now?

[Takeshita] You are asking me what I think of the consumption tax, a new taxation system in the so-called tax reform. Since it is tantamount to the tax reform itself, which has been a long pending issue to me, I am convinced that there will come a day when this taxation system is fused into the national life and when the people will say that this tax reform, along with drastic cuts in income and other taxes, is a good thing. I think I will have to continue efforts to help it take root. No matter what position I may be in, I will keep firmly in mind that it was, after all, a law enacted at my request, as prime minister and concurrently finance minister.

[Question] I am sorry to go back to a political subject again. From the time the Recruit scandal surfaced to the developments leading to what is happening today, Mr Prime Minister, did you think that the issue would develop as far as it has? Do you think you misjudged public opinion or should I say the people's feelings?

[Takeshita] After the Recruit case became an issue, I did not think—to borrow your phrase—it would become such a big deal as to give rise to public distrust in politics as it has today. I think I must frankly admit that.

[Question] What was your misjudgment?

[Takeshita] From my own reflection, I feel that no matter how we separate the so-called political activities from private life, there is too big a gap between money matters in those activities and individual private activities.

[Question] Do you mean, so to speak, a gap between the general public's monetary sense and so-called politicians' monetary sense?

[Takeshita] No. I think what is important is my own monetary sense and not the monetary sense as a politician.

[Question] My question is in connection with the issue of public distrust in politics. You are stepping down to help enact the budget bill, but there is a strong voice which calls for settlement of the Nakasone issue in order to eradicate public distrust in politics. During your remaining term in office, how will you deal with the Nakasone issue?

[Takeshita] Regarding this question, the LDP clarified its view at a secretary general's meeting with the opposition parties, and the meeting is now deadlocked. Hence, I think I must say that I am in no position to say any more than that. Politicians should weigh the question of their course of action in accordance with their own discretion. That is what I have always been saying.

[Question] I am going back to the political reform issue. You said earlier that you want to undertake what you can as the chief executive. Specifically, what do you have in mind now?

[Takeshita] I have sorted things out in my heart. However, I think it should be finally rectified on the basis of views expressed by the wise men's group, and as long as the group is working on it, I believe that it would be a matter of courtesy to answer the question after the group has presented its views.

[Question] The next primary task is said to be political reform. What do you have in mind in this connection?

[Takeshita] In sum, although I have no intention of making requests to a new person, I have been saying that I want to undertake political reform, and no one has raised any objections to it. In this connection, I believe it should be tackled as the most important task.

[Question] In this connection, I would like to ask another question. Mr Prime Minister, when you became prime minister you called for a change in generations in the LDP. In the middle of your first term, however, you are resigning. What is your present position regarding the generation change and political power from a long-term viewpoint?

[Takeshita] When I stood as a candidate for the LDP president, I do not think I personally put up the ideal—the generation change—by myself. However, a generation change is what is happening all the time. I think this is a natural course.

[Question] I would like to ask how you reached the decision to resign. What has caused you to decide to resign? For example, you might have been affected by the rate of support in public surveys and the pangs of conscience or any other mental factors. What was the cause?

[Takeshita] As I said in the beginning, the decision was made by myself alone through extensive contemplation. I don't think that it is proper to get into practical details in this regard.

[Question] Did you consult with anyone?

[Takeshita] It was a matter to be decided by myself. It was not a matter requiring consultations. This is what I have been saying for a long time.

[Question] You say that you reached the decision this morning in accordance with your belief that this kind of thing should be decided very quickly and suddenly. Then, when did the idea—resignation—begin to occur to you?

[Takeshita] I think that one continuously should question oneself about when to retire from the time one assumes office.

[Question] You mean that you have had the question in your mind since you became prime minister?

[Takeshita] Yes, that is what I have been saying from a long time. My elder [senpai] said that he would like to stabilize the political situation by making a sudden resignation in a coolheaded and calm manner amid difficulties surrounding him. I recall I liked to read this passage. I think that a politician should decide on his resignation in this manner.

[Question] I would like to ask about the ASEAN visit. You have announced your resignation to people at home and abroad, but you are going to make the visit. What would [words indistinct]?

[Takeshita] That was also a point to which I gave deep thought. In view of the need for consistency and continuity in diplomacy, I have reached the conclusion that it is proper to make the visit as scheduled.

[Question] In this connection, the South Korean president is scheduled to visit Japan. Do you mean to say that this will also be carried out as scheduled?

[Takeshita] Concerning your question now, I wonder how...

[Question, interrupting] May we think that there will be no change in diplomatic schedules for the time being?

[Takeshita] That is the way I am planning it.

[Question] You mean to say that for the time being, there will be no change of schedules concerning your visits overseas and foreign guests' visits to Japan as well?

[Takeshita] I think that no change should be proposed from my side.

[Question] Concerning the budget bill for the first year of Heisei, upon whose passage you have decided to resign, when do you think the budget bill will be passed?

[Takeshita] Concerning the question, I would like to say I am, of course, still prime minister. Therefore, as I always say, I am still working hard to have it passed in the Diet. It is a fact that I am still the head of administration, so if I answer the question I will be out of line in terms of the separation of the three powers. Therefore, I think I should not express my views on the prospects. I heartily look forward to its passage.

[Unidentified person] Are there any other questions?

[Question] I would like to return to the question of former Prime Minister Nakasone. I think that this question is also one of the factors stopping the Diet operation. Do you have any plan to personally visit former Prime Minister Nakasone or leaders of the opposition parties?

[Takeshita] I intend to visit three former prime ministers to report on how I have reached today's decision. In your question, you probably mentioned the plan as a measure to save the present difficult situation. The party is now working hard on these measures. Therefore, I am now not in the position to speak of measures to settle the situation. I hope you will understand this. I always have been careful in handling this kind of thing for the past 30 years. I ask for your understanding in this regard.

[Unidentified voice] This is the end. Thank you very much.

[Takeshita] Thank you.

Reaction to Takeshita Resignation Statement

LDP's Abe, Ito Comment

OW2504135989 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 25 Apr 89

[Text] At Juntendo Hospital in Tokyo where he is now receiving treatment, Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Secretary General Abe made a statement to reporters on Prime Minister Takeshita's decision to resign. In the statement, Secretary General Abe said: His decision to resign is a resolute step for a breakthrough in the current

situation. The responsibility placed on us is to pass the budget for the new fiscal year as soon as possible and stabilize the livelihood of the people. I think that to this end, our party should make a united effort to pass the budget. At any rate, I believe that the prime minister will soon ask me to have consultations on our strategy for future political activities. I would like to have all our party members strive and cooperate in stabilizing the political situation without fail.

LDP Executive Council Chairman Ito made the following remarks after a session of the council.

[Begin Ito recording] Acting Secretary General Hashimoto informed me of the prime minister's statement, remarks, and their endorsement at a meeting of executives. That is, I was informed of his decision to resign when the budget is passed. I was informed that he called on the attendants to make a united all-party effort to have the budget pass through the Diet. In this context, an Executive Council meeting also decided to respect and support the prime minister's step. Earlier, I personally thought that it would be better for the prime minister to reach a conclusion after having the budget passed, conducting the House of Councillors election, and seeing the election results. I feel that he made the decision rather quickly. At any rate, I and my colleagues are serving under Prime Minister and party President Takeshita, so they will have to take the same course of action with him. [end recording]

Ito Denies Succession Rumors

OW2504122389 Tokyo KYODO in English 1050 GMT
25 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 (KYODO)—Senior Liberal Democratic Party officer Masayoshi Ito has emerged as a probable successor to Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who will step down from power shortly amid the widening Recruit scandal, LDP sources said Tuesday.

Takeshita's political mentor, Shin Kanemaru, and former State Minister Toshio Komoto are also being mentioned as possible candidates for the post, the sources said.

Takeshita, who tendered his resignation at a hastily arranged press conference Tuesday morning, did not say specifically who should be his successor, leaving the matter to intraparty bargaining efforts between factions of the governing party.

Ito, 76, a one-time foreign minister, currently chairs the LDP's 30-member decision-making body, the Executive Council.

Ito, meeting reporters after the day's session of the council, denied he is Takeshita's probable successor and said a younger person should be picked.

He also denied reports that Takeshita has asked him to fill the post.

Former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki, under whom Ito served as foreign minister 1980-1981, told reporters Tuesday that Ito "is really a powerful candidate."

Suzuki has a strong say in the management of the LDP's second largest faction, currently headed by former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Suzuki said he and his group are ready to put Ito up for the post if other factions agree to it.

Ito, delivering a stumping speech to back an LDP candidate in the House of Councillors election this summer, said he and other top LDP officers all should resign when Takeshita steps down.

A long-term advocate of political reforms to rid politics of its plutocratic nature, Ito said all LDP leaders must apologize to the nation for having encouraged a national sense of distrust in politics.

Takeshita's supporters strongly favor Kanemaru, 74, to assume the role of caretaker, Takeshita faction sources said.

Kanemaru served as LDP secretary general and deputy prime minister in the cabinet of Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Meanwhile, Komoto, 77, said he has pushed political reform efforts since last fall, hinting that he is ready to succeed Takeshita.

Komoto, the de facto owner of the defunct Sanko Steamship Co., ran in the LDP presidential election in 1982 but lost to Nakasone at that time.

JSP's Doi Calls for Coalition Government

OW2504072189 Tokyo KYODO in English 0601 GMT
25 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Japan Socialist Party Chairwoman Takako Doi said Tuesday opposition parties should form a coalition government after Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's cabinet steps down.

The head of Japan's largest opposition party said Takeshita's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) "abandoned" the government and is not qualified to form a new cabinet.

"It is the regular constitutional way that under the first opposition party, an opposition coalition should bear the responsibility," she said.

Doi also said Takeshita's resignation announcement is only a "first victory of the public opinion." She said former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone should be summoned to speak before the Diet about the Recruit scandal.

She told party members the JSP should keep pressing for restructuring the powerful lower house and hold a general election.

Doi also said she will call for an emergency summit meeting of four major opposition parties—her own, Komeito, Democratic Socialist Party, and the United Socialist Democratic Party. She did not specify a date.

Meanwhile, Komeito head Junya Yano told a party meeting that Takeshita's resignation "will not be the end. We have a mission to clarify the scandal." Yano said he was surprised by the announcement, saying, "I thought he (Takeshita) would stick to his position more."

But Yano said he took Takeshita's resignation seriously because he exchanged his political life as premier for the passing of 1989 national budget.

Major opposition parties, however, vowed to keep pressuring for Nakasone to appear before the Diet to talk about Recruit.

JSP Secretary General Tsuruo Yamaguchi said "We will keep demanding his summoning whoever succeeds Takeshita."

Said another Komeito lawmaker: "What is stalling the debate for the 1989 budget is Nakasone's problem, not Takeshita's."

Democratic Socialist Party head Eiichi Nagasue meanwhile said the party has not yet decided how to proceed with budget deliberations.

"We have not had any approach from the Liberal Democratic Party. It all depends on the negotiations with LDP," he said.

Komeito Secretary General Naohiko Okubo said, "We must listen carefully to what the LDP demands in exchange for Takeshita's stepdown."

A senior Japan Communist Party dietman, however, said debate on the 1989 budget would likely wait until a successor to Takeshita is named.

Mixed Public Reaction Reported

OW2504083089 Tokyo KYODO in English 0438 GMT
25 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—The Japanese people showed mixed reactions to Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's announcement Tuesday of his decision to step down.

Writer Momo Iida said the announcement came very late as his popularity rating has remained extremely low in the past few months.

Since Takeshita has continued to ignore the voters by imposing a 3 percent consumption tax, it is only right for him to resign, Iida said.

Yoshiaki Iizaka, a professor at Gakushuin University, also said Takeshita's announcement has come very late.

But it is significant in that democracy has been kept intact because the prime minister has expressed his intention to resign in response to public opinion, Iizaka said.

Shigeo Oshima, secretary general of a Tokyo consumers' organization, said Takeshita was responsible for lowered public trust in politicians by becoming involved in the Recruit scandal.

The prime minister has had to give up his post in the face of mounting criticism of the 3 percent consumption tax his administration imposed from April 1, Oshima said.

He called on the government to immediately dissolve the House of Representatives for a general election and at the same time abolish the unpopular tax on almost all goods and services.

"I was really surprised. I thought he would stay in office much longer," a male office worker said as he was hurrying to work during the morning rush hour in Tokyo.

The surprise was also shared by Sanae Hara, an official of a group monitoring price trends, who said she thought the prime minister would remain in office a bit longer.

"What we are worrying most about is that the consumption tax will remain in force in exchange for Takeshita's resignation," she said.

All Recruit Co. employees remained tightlipped about Takeshita's resignation when approached by reporters for comment in front of their head office in downtown Tokyo.

"We have nothing to tell you," a public relations official angrily said.

Education Minister Takeo Nishioka said all cabinet ministers heard Takeshita's statement about his resignation at a cabinet meeting held in a gloomy atmosphere Tuesday morning.

Nishioka refused to comment on Takeshita's resignation.

Foreign Press Comments

OW2504125789 Tokyo KYODO in English 1201 GMT
25 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 (KYODO)—The decision by Japan's prime minister to resign may go a long way toward settling a political crisis at home, where support for Noboru Takeshita had sunk all but out of sight and his ruling Liberal Democratic Party feared losing its 34-year lock on power amid a flood of embarrassing scandal stories.

But the terms of the resignation promise only to add to problems gathering strength just off shore, where trade frictions are generating a dangerous heat, according to a number of foreign correspondents for European, U.S. and Asian news organizations asked to assess the significance of the move.

The circumstances surrounding Takeshita's resignation announcement virtually guarantee that he will be succeeded by a "caretaker" prime minister, selected to serve a year at most, said reporters for publications ranging from the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, a Hong Kong-based news magazine, to the Soviet Union's NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY and the U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK.

The new leader will be chosen for virtues which make him attractive as a figure to restore public confidence in the ruling party and Japan's political system, but precisely because of those virtues, unfit to wield power for long at the top of its factionalized political system, a number of correspondents said.

The caretaker, who will be a respected figure of unquestioned integrity chosen to improve the battered image of the ruling LDP ahead of an election this summer for the upper house of the Diet, Japan's parliament, will likely step down next fall, they said.

At that point Takeshita's true successor will be chosen, through a process of bargaining and dealmaking among LDP faction leaders.

That figure could prove to be one of the party leaders presently ruled out as an immediate successor because of links to the Recruit insider trading and bribery scandal that brought down Takeshita.

But not until a new long-term leader is chosen through the normal LDP faction bargaining process will Japan have at the helm a figure ready to exert strong leadership in dealing with the trade, finance and defense issues which its great wealth and power involve, said several correspondents.

Takeshita's resignation was expected by all the correspondents contacted; only the timing of the decision was in doubt.

Charles Smith, a correspondent for the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, attributed the timing of the eventual decision to the fact that Takeshita's "position had weakened vastly over the past week," which started on a dismal note with a poll showing just 3.9 percent of Japanese supporting the prime minister.

On Friday [21 April], the head of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, Takashi Ishihara, demanded Takeshita step down, and the following day several newspapers reported the prime minister had received a further 50 million yen as a loan from Recruit Co. not previously disclosed.

"That destroyed the credibility of the statement (by Takeshita) to the Diet on April 11 listing all donations received from Recruit," said Smith.

"Ishihara's comments showed that he had lost the support of business leaders."

The resignation increases the pressure on former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to testify before the Diet about the links he is suspected of having to Recruit, said Smith.

"As long as Takeshita was prime minister, it was important to preserve the unity among the four mainstream LDP factions," which Takeshita had accomplished by deflecting calls from rival LDP factions for Nakasone to testify, Smith said.

But now that "Takeshita has sacrificed his career" by resigning, Nakasone will be under pressure to risk embarrassment for the sake of the party, he added.

Business Leaders Urge Political Reform

OW2504080289 Tokyo KYODO in English 0625 GMT
25 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 (KYODO)—Japanese business leaders urged the government Tuesday to obtain an early Diet passage of the long-stalled state budget for Fiscal 1989 in the wake of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's decision to resign.

Opposition parties have been boycotting budget debates in the Diet as a way to force former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to testify before the House of Representatives about his alleged involvement in the Recruit scandal.

Most business leaders said Takeshita's decision to resign was inevitable and expressed the need for a new Diet to carry out political reforms.

Takeshi Ishihara, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), said Takeshita likely made the decision based on "a whole view of situation." The government, he said, should now regain public trust and secure democracy by enabling political reforms, he added.

Eiji Suzuki, chairman of the Japan Federation of Employers' Association (Nikkeiren), said the premier's resignation will defuse a growing lack of confidence among the people.

Japan Chamber of Commerce President Rokuro Ishikawa said the government must now pass the national budget as soon as possible.

In western Japan, business leaders also said Takeshita's decision was unavoidable. Osamu Uno, chairman of the Kansai Economic Federation, said no time should be wasted in bringing about political reforms. Seiji Morii, chairman of the Kansai Committee for Economic Development, said the ruling Liberal Democratic Party has to restore international trust and public support in Japan.

Financial Policy To Be Unaffected

OW2504050389 Tokyo KYODO in English 0354 GMT
25 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Finance Minister Tatsuo Murayama said on Tuesday that Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's resignation will not affect Japan's financial policy which gives priority to coordination among the group of seven industrialized nations.

Murayama, speaking at a press conference after a cabinet meeting where the premier expressed his intention to step down, said the Japanese economy is on track, led by brisk domestic demand, and Japan will seek to play an important role in the global society through its present external policy.

Murayama urged the opposition parties to cooperate with the passage of the fiscal 1989 budget now that the prime minister has decided to quit.

ASEAN Countries 'Puzzled' by Takeshita Tour Plans OW2504075689 Tokyo KYODO in English 0626 GMT 25 Apr 89

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 25 (KYODO)—Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's statement Tuesday that he will go ahead with a scheduled trip to five Southeast Asian countries even though he will shortly resign puzzles government officials and diplomatic sources in the region.

"I don't understand why he will be coming with all his problems, especially after he said he will resign," a Malaysian Foreign Ministry source said.

Takeshita said in Tokyo earlier in the day he will step down as prime minister, taking responsibility for a major bribery scandal in which he himself is implicated.

But he added he will visit the five countries—Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines—as scheduled beginning Saturday. The five, along with Brunei, make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Also puzzled by the statement, another Malaysian Foreign Ministry source said, "It's a bit odd (that he will still visit the ASEAN countries) after announcing he is resigning."

"His image among the leaders in this region will be affected...Knowing well when he goes back after the trip he is going to be a nobody."

In Bangkok, an Asian diplomatic source said, "I don't understand how this can happen."

"He's already in the midst of a total scandal—bad enough. How has he undertaken this trip even though he confessed he is corrupt and announced he will resign?" the source added.

It will be the first trip to four of the ASEAN countries—except the Philippines—for Takeshita, who has been prime minister since November 1987.

It will also be the first visit to the region by a Japanese prime minister since 1983, when Takeshita's predecessor Yasuhiro Nakasone made a trip there.

Takeshita visited Manila in December that year to attend an ASEAN summit meeting.

Reports from Manila quoted government officials here as saying they will be "disappointed" if Takeshita cancels his visit to the Philippines, where he and President Corazon Aquino are expected to discuss Japan's commitment to an international aid plan for the country.

"(The aid plan) itself, aside from being a personal commitment, we consider it as a commitment of the Japanese Government," Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus was quoted as saying in response to reports that Takeshita will resign shortly.

The aid plan is expected to be high on the agenda at the Takeshita-Aquino meeting.

Diplomatic sources said the Kampuchean problem, closer regional economic cooperation and Japan's economic aid to the countries are likely to be discussed during Takeshita's talks with leaders of the ASEAN countries.

In Singapore and Jakarta, local newspapers headlined Takeshita's decision to step down, with the Singapore evening tabloid newspaper carrying the news under the banner, "Takeshita Out in Morning Drama."

In a Tokyo datelined story, the daily said "Mr Clean" is tipped to succeed Takeshita, a reference to former Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ito who is currently chief of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's executive council.

A financial dealer in Singapore said, "We are waiting to see who will be Takeshita's successor, it's a period of uncertainty."

As Singaporean Foreign Ministry officials continue preparations for Takeshita's visit to the island Republic as part of his ASEAN tour, Indonesian President Suharto said he still welcome the premier's visit to Jakarta.

"(Takeshita) will make the visit on behalf of the Japanese people," State Secretary Murdiono quoted Suharto as saying. Takeshita is scheduled to stay in Jakarta May 4-6, the first visit to the country by a Japanese prime minister in six years.

In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar said he was shocked by Takeshita's statement that he will quit.

"This is a shock but we respect his position," he said, and praised Takeshita for promoting financial and economic arrangements between Japan and the ASEAN countries. He specifically referred to the 2-billion-dollar ASEAN Japan Development Fund (AJDF) the prime minister offered at a summit meeting of ASEAN leaders in Manila in December 1987.

Foreign Ministry Predicts No Change in Diplomacy

Uno Stresses Continuity

OW2504082889 Tokyo KYODO in English 0809 GMT
25 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 (KYODO)—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's decision to step down will not affect the conduct of Japan's diplomacy, Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno said Tuesday.

"There is consistency and continuity" in Japan's diplomacy, Uno told a group of reporters hours after Takeshita announced that he intends to resign.

Uno also defended Takeshita's decision to proceed with his plan to visit five countries in Southeast Asia from Saturday [29 April], saying the trip is a symbol that "everything is well in Japan."

Japan's diplomacy will not undergo any major change "so long as the Liberal Democratic Party is in power," he said.

Takeshita will visit Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines, five of the six member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The prime minister is scheduled make a major policy speech on May 5 during a stop in Jakarta, outlining Japan's foreign policy toward the region in the 1990s.

Takeshita, who has been embroiled in the widening Recruit bribery scandal, announced earlier Tuesday he is resigning in order to end public distrust in politics.

He said he will step down after getting Diet approval of the long-stalled government budget for fiscal 1989, possibly sometime next month.

Uno, commenting on his own trip to Moscow next week, appeared to be less enthusiastic about the prospect of any major breakthrough in removing the strain in Japan's ties with the Soviet Union.

The main purpose of Uno's trip is to press Japan's case for the return of a group of Soviet-occupied islands off northern Japan—a major stumbling bloc in Japanese-Soviet ties.

"The situation remains severe," Uno said of the prospects of changing the Soviets' policy on the territorial dispute.

While in Moscow, Uno will have two sessions of talks with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze. He is also scheduled to pay a courtesy call on Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Uno said he considers the Moscow trip important as it marks the continuation of a dialogue between the foreign ministers of the two countries, their third encounter since last December.

Apart from Moscow, Uno will also travel to the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaator and make a stop in Beijing during his eight-day tour. Uno's visit to Mongolia will be the first ever by a Japanese cabinet minister.

ROK's No Expected To Postpone Visit

OW2504021689 Tokyo KYODO in English 0201 GMT
25 Apr 89

[Text] Seoul, April 25 KYODO—South Korean President No Tae-u's visit to Japan scheduled for late next month will probably be postponed following reports that Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita has decided to resign, political analysts said Tuesday.

They said, however, that Takeshita's resignation may not largely affect bilateral relations, which have improved since Takeshita took office in November 1987.

Takeshita visited Seoul in February last year to attend No's inaugural ceremony and also attended the opening ceremony of the Seoul Olympics in September.

South Korea's deficit in trade with Japan has also considerably narrowed, the analysts said.

Takeshita has decided to resign in an attempt to end the current impasse in the Diet caused by the Recruit scandal, and secure the passage of the fiscal 1988 national budget.

South Korean newspapers earlier reported that No might put off his Tokyo visit until November, quoting government sources as saying that his May visit could be inopportune in view of Japan's uncertain political situation.

No Invitation Still Valid

OW2504094489 Tokyo KYODO in English 0916 GMT
25 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 (KYODO)—Japan is preparing to welcome South Korean President No Tae-u as a state guest late next month no matter who takes over the reins of government, a senior government official said Tuesday.

The official, who asked not to be named, was referring to reports from Seoul that No might cancel his trip to Tokyo.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita earlier Tuesday announced his intention to step down to break the current political impasse brought about by the Recruit scandal.

The official said he has not heard of No's cancellation of his visit to Japan but added it is up to Seoul to decide whether or not to cancel it.

Uno Says No To Visit as Scheduled

OW2204202789 Tokyo KYODO in English 1034 GMT
22 Apr 89 txt

[Text] Fukuoka, April 22 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno, denying South Korean press reports, said Saturday that President No Tae-u will visit Japan in late May as scheduled.

Uno, delivering an hour-long speech at a lecture session here, said South Korean news reports that No may postpone a May visit are "absolutely wrong."

The South Korean Government told Japan Saturday it is preparing for No's visit as scheduled, the foreign minister said.

CHOSON ILBO, a Seoul daily, in a front-page story in its Saturday edition, said that the South Korean Government is carefully considering delaying the trip because of political turmoil in both countries.

KBS [Korean Broadcasting System] news carried a similar report in its Friday evening news broadcast.

Uno, who spoke about Japan's foreign policy to an audience of about 700, said that for the next 40 years, the Japanese must strive to convince the world of their sincere determination to "establish a new stance of peaceful diplomacy."

He said Japan, as a major economic power, will not be a military power.

Uno also said he wants a chance to persuade Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach to quickly withdraw troops from Kampuchea and cooperate in establishing a government headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Later, the 67-year-old Uno told reporters that he will appear live May 4 on Soviet state-run television and possibly would discuss the territorial dispute over islands off northern Japan.

Uno reiterated that a solution remains a precondition to concluding a peace treaty with the Soviet Union. The four islands off northeastern Hokkaido have been occupied by the Soviets since just after the end of World War II.

Uno arrives in Tbilisi April 30 to kick off an eight-day trip to the Soviet Union, Mongolia and China. Uno said he will be the first Japanese foreign minister and the first cabinet member from the West to visit Mongolia. Uno returns to Tokyo May 7.

Uno's speech was arranged by the Foreign Ministry as a part of nationwide sessions it has launched since early 1988 to promote regional understanding and participation in international exchanges.

Ministers To Visit U.S. as Planned

OW2504045689 Tokyo KYODO in English 0359 GMT
25 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka said Tuesday he will go ahead with a trip to the U.S. and Canada due to start Sunday [30 April] unless Diet business and other circumstances prevent him doing so.

He told reporters after a cabinet meeting that he will make all-out efforts to carry out his duties as trade minister until the cabinet is dissolved with the resignation of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita after the 1989 national budget is passed by the Diet.

Diet deliberations on the budget have been stalled due to a boycott by opposition parties demanding that former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone testify in the Diet on his alleged connection with the Recruit bribery scandal.

Referring to his eight-day official trip to the U.S. and Canada, Mitsuzuka said, "The passage of the budget for the new fiscal year should be given top priority."

But he added that in the light of current economic relations with the U.S. and Canada, it is important for him to make the visit as scheduled.

Mitsuzuka praised Takeshita for his courage as a politician, adding that Takeshita's decision is based on his political beliefs. "I think the time was right for him to make such a decision," he added.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Tsutomu Hata also told reporters after a cabinet meeting that he plans to leave Sunday for a week-long visit to the U.S. as scheduled for talks with U.S. Government and congressional leaders to discuss farm trade issues.

Uno To Proceed With Visits

OW2504022589 Tokyo KYODO in English 0215 GMT
25 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno said Tuesday he will leave on Sunday for an eight-day visit to the Soviet Union, Mongolia and China as scheduled.

Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who expressed his intention to resign earlier Tuesday, has instructed cabinet members to perform their scheduled diplomatic business, Uno said.

Uno will hold regular consultations with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow on May 3.

U.S. Rejects FSX Component Transfer

OW2404143889 Tokyo KYODO in English 1357 GMT
24 Apr 89

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—The United States has formally rejected one component of a controversial transfer to Japan of U.S.-developed aviation technology for Japan's next-generation FSX support fighter, defense sources said Monday.

The source did not elaborate on the U.S. rejection, but the component is believed to be the mission computer source codes for the General Dynamics F-16 fighter, the plane on which the FSX would be based.

The codes, or computer programs, integrate the aircraft's radar, navigation and weapons systems.

The rejection was made in Washington during a meeting between U.S. officials and senior Japanese Defense Agency official Masaji Yamamoto, head of the Equipment Bureau, the sources said.

Safeguarding the source codes from Japanese commercial exploitation has been a major concern of supporters of a presidential decision last March to attach "clarifications" to the original FSX joint production accord that was signed between the two countries last December.

Other areas of debate involve who will claim ownership of technology spinoffs from the codevelopment project and what percentage of the development work should be accorded to the United States.

U.S. critics of the project say it amounts to yet another technological giveaway to the Japanese competition, while Japanese detractors say Japan should proceed with the fighter development on its own as originally planned.

A U.S. rejection of source code transfer would mean Japan now faces a decision to either accept a so-called "black box" containing the source codes in an undivulged form or to proceed with independent production of its own computer program.

The Defense Agency is expected to debate Japan's next move when Yamamoto reports back Thursday [27 April].

Japanese Government sources said that while talks have been ongoing, Tokyo and Washington have yet to make significant progress on basic points of divergence that have stalled the joint development project.

North Korea

Kim Il-song Expresses Hope for Meeting No Tae-u *SK2404155589 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1526 GMT 24 Apr 89*

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—In his speech at a banquet given today in honor of Comrade Zhao Ziyang, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, estimated Rev. Mun Ik-hwan's visit to Pyongyang as a righteous, patriotic act and expressed hope that President No Tae-u and democrats of South Korea will meet us as soon as possible.

Noting that it is a unanimous desire of all the Korean people today to settle the question of national reunification in a peaceful way through dialogue and negotiation, Comrade Kim Il-song said: We proposed to convene a political consultative meeting of the leading-level personages of the North and the South this year and have made strenuous efforts to realize many-sided dialogue between the North and the South.

He went on:

These days the South Korean people's aspirations for national reunification are mounting unprecedentedly and their demand for wide-scale contact and dialogue with us is increasing exceptionally. Recently Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, a conscientious democrat of South Korea, visited Pyongyang and met us. His was a righteous, patriotic act which reflected the aspirations of the South Korean people to open the way to the country's reunification by the efforts of our own nation without foreign interference.

The issue of realizing contacts and visits between the North and the South naturally coincides with the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity on which the North and the South have already agreed and the South Korean authorities also have insisted on this. The person in power of South Korea, too, said that he would come to Pyongyang to meet us and we also invited him and other leadership-level people of South Korea. It is absolutely right and natural that Rev. Mun Ik-hwan recently visited Pyongyang in response to our invitation. Frequent visits and contacts between the North and the South will make it possible to find a way to improve the North-South relations and reunify the country peacefully, and the problem of boosting the homogeneity of the nation and achieving national harmony, as advocated by the South Korean authorities, can also be realized only through contacts and visits. Therefore, they must not complicate the situation by calling to account those who, out of a single desire for national reunification, did a right deed to blaze a trail for the visits between the North and the South. We hope that President No Tae-u and democrats of South Korea will also accept our invitation and meet

us as soon as possible. In this way we should create an atmosphere of national reconciliation and unity and promote dialogues smoothly so as to ease tension between the North and the South, accelerate national reunification and open up a broad avenue for our nation.

Reportage on Visit of PRC's Zhao Ziyang

Kim Il-song Hosts Banquet *SK2404161089 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1544 GMT 24 Apr 89*

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea, today arranged a grand banquet at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall in honor of Comrade Zhao Ziyang, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, on an official goodwill visit to Korea.

Comrade Kim Il-song conducted Comrade Zhao Ziyang into the banquet hall amid warm welcome of the attendants.

The national anthems of the People's Republic of China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were played at the banquet.

Comrade Kim Il-song made a speech.

Comrade Zhao Ziyang spoke next.

Present on invitation at the banquet were cadres accompanying Comrade Zhao Ziyang and suites.

Also invited were officials of the Chinese Embassy in Pyongyang, staffers of the liaison office of the Chinese People's Volunteers to the Military Armistice Commission and Chinese guests staying in Korea.

Present at the banquet were member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and premier of the Administration Council Yon Hyong-muk, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and vice-president Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK, vice-premier of the Administration Council and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the C.C., the WPK Ho Tam, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and chief of the general staff of the Korean People's Army Choe Kwang, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and vice-premier of the Administration Council Kang Hui-won, secretaries of the C.C., the WPK Choe Tae-bpk and Pak Nam-ki, member of the C.C., the WPK and Korean ambassador E.P. to China Chu Chang-chun, members and alternate members of the C.C., the WPK in Pyongyang, directors of departments of the C.C., the WPK,

chairmen of commissions and ministers of the Administration Council, leading officials of working people's organizations, generals of the Korean People's Army, leading men of science, education, culture and art, public health and the press.

The banquet proceeded all along in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

Kim Il-song Speaks at Banquet

SK2404153889 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500 GMT 24 Apr 89*

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, arranged a grand banquet this evening at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall in honor of Comrade Zhao Ziyang, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, on an official goodwill visit to Korea and made a speech.

Saying that he is extremely delighted to reunite with Comrade Zhao Ziyang in Pyongyang and share the momentous occasion, Comrade Kim Il-song noted:

When you, esteemed Comrade Zhao Ziyang, assumed the important duty of the premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, you came to our country as your first visit abroad; and now, taking the heavy responsibility of the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, you have made your first visit abroad to our country. This shows that Comrade Zhao Ziyang and the Communist Party of China invariably set great store by friendship between Korea and China which was sealed in blood in the course of a protracted common struggle and is deeply rooted in the hearts of our two peoples and that they are firmly determined to continue to be true to the revolutionary loyalty between us. This also demonstrates the ties of fraternal friendship and militant comradeship which link our two parties and peoples.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity overflowing with the pleasure of touching reunion between brothers and with the feelings of friendship between comrades-in-arms to warmly welcome once again Comrade Zhao Ziyang and his party as the honourable guests of our people on behalf of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean people and on my own behalf.

The current visit of Comrade Zhao Ziyang to our country is taking place in a significant year which coincides with the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and China and of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

In the worthwhile struggle of the past 40 years for sovereignty, independence and socialism, the peoples of Korea and China have brought through difficulties and

trials and traversed the victorious road together sharing life and death, good times and bad by relying on and uniting with each other at all times.

Korea-China friendship was established as far back as in the crucible of the grim anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle. During the arduous fatherland liberation war waged by our people this friendship developed into matchlessly noble, militant and unbreakable relationship thanks to the fact that the fraternal Chinese people assisted our struggle at the cost of blood by sending volunteers composed of their finest sons and daughters under the slogan of "Resist America and aid Korea, safeguard the home and defend the motherland" and with the advance of history it has steadily strengthened and developed into indestructible friendship which no force can break. We are satisfied that the traditional friendship between Korea and China is consolidating and developing still further in conformity with the common aspiration and will of the peoples of our two countries with the passage of time.

Under the seasoned leadership of the Communist Party of China which has trained itself and accumulated rich experience in the course of a prolonged struggle, the Chinese people are now achieving great success in the struggle to build socialism with Chinese characteristics by maintaining the four cardinal principles and promoting the reform and open-door policy. In accordance with their foreign policy of independence, sovereignty and peace the Communist Party of China and the Chinese Government have striven to develop friendly relations among the peoples of the world and to establish a fair international order, thus winning a high prestige in the international arena and making a great contribution to the cause of universal peace.

Our party and people rejoice as over their own over the fact that in China, our fraternal neighbor and country of our close comrades-in-arms, socialist modernization is making good headway and that the might and international influence of the People's Republic of China are increasing constantly, and sincerely wish the Chinese people greater success in their struggle to implement the decision of the 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

Today our people, rallied closely around the Workers' Party of Korea and under the unfurled banner of the three revolutions—ideological, technical and cultural—are performing brilliant labour exploit in the building of socialism and working hard to reunify the country independently and peacefully.

It is a unanimous desire of all the Korean people today to settle the question of national reunification in a peaceful way through dialogue and negotiation. This also fully conforms to the trend of the present times.

Proceeding from our desire to solve the question of the country's reunification independently and peacefully by joining the efforts and wisdom of the whole nation, we proposed to convene a political consultative meeting of the leading-level personages of the North and the South this year and have made strenuous efforts to realize many-sided dialogues between the North and the South.

These days the South Korean people's aspirations for national reunification are mounting unprecedentedly and their demand for wide-scale contact and dialogue with us is increasing exceptionally. Recently Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, a conscientious democrat of South Korea, visited Pyongyang and met us. His was a righteous, patriotic act which reflected the aspirations of the South Korean people to open the way to the country's reunification by the efforts of our own nation without foreign interference.

The issue of realizing contacts and visits between the North and the South naturally coincides with the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity on which the North and the South have already agreed and the South Korean authorities also have insisted on this. The person in power of South Korea, too, said that he would come to Pyongyang to meet us and we also invited him and other leadership-level people of South Korea. It is absolutely right and natural that Rev. Mun Ik-hwan recently visited Pyongyang in response to our invitation. Frequent visits and contacts between the North and the South will make it possible to find a way to improve the North-South relations and reunify the country peacefully, and the problem of boosting the homogeneity of the nation and achieving national harmony, as advocated by the South Korean authorities, can also be realized only through contacts and visits. Therefore, they must not complicate the situation by calling to account those who, out of a single desire for national reunification, did a right deed to blaze a trail for the visits between the North and the South. We hope that President No Tae-u and democrats of South Korea will also accept our invitation and meet us as soon as possible. In this way we should create an atmosphere of national reconciliation and unity and promote dialogues smoothly so as to ease tension between the North and the South, accelerate national reunification and open up a broad avenue for our nation.

Easing the tension and guaranteeing peace on the Korean peninsula is of great importance in improving the situation in the Asian-Pacific region and in promoting the whole process of the relaxation of the international tension. Heavy is the responsibility of the United States and important is its role in guaranteeing peace in Korea and solving the Korean question. If the United States truly wants the relaxation of tension and peace, it should not engage in empty talk but take practical measures to relax the tension and guarantee durable peace on the Korean peninsula; it should abandon its "two Koreas" policy and must not obstruct the reunification of Korea.

The relations between Korea and China are the same as those of lips and teeth and the revolutionary cause of the two peoples is linked as one. The Communist Party of China and the Chinese Government and people always render active support and encouragement to our people's righteous cause for socialist construction and national reunification. We are grateful for this.

Korea-China friendship is indestructible friendship which has overcome all sorts of ordeals of history; it is strengthening and developing still further in the course of frequent visits and close mutual cooperation by the party and state leaders of the two countries. Comrade Zhao Ziyang's current visit to our country will be another important occasion in developing the fraternal relations of friendship and cooperation between our two parties, two countries and two peoples onto a yet higher stage.

Our party and people will, in the future too, as in the past, advance shoulder to shoulder with the Communist Party of China and Chinese people in the common struggle against imperialism and for the victory of the cause of peace and socialism and will make every effort to strengthen and develop Korea-China friendship through the generations.

Comrade Kim Il-song proposed a toast:

To the eternal and fraternal friendship and solidarity between the two parties and peoples of Korea and China,

To the strengthening and development of the Communist Party of China and the eternal prosperity of the People's Republic of China, and to the long life and good health of esteemed Comrade Zhao Ziyang.

Zhao Ziyang Addresses Banquet

SK2404164589 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1618 GMT 24 Apr 89*

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—Comrade Zhao Ziyang, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, made a speech at the banquet given by Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall this evening.

Comrade Zhao Ziyang said:

I and my entourage are paying an official goodwill visit to your country carrying the deep sentiments of friendship for the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean People upon the invitation of Comrade Kim Il-song, a close friend of the Chinese people and the great leader of the Korean people, in this good season when spring is soft and warm and everything comes back to life. We are very much pleased with this.

The moment we set foot on the beautiful land of your country, we were greeted with enthusiastic welcome of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean Government and people and we were wrapped in an atmosphere overflowing with the feelings of friendship.

And this evening I am sitting together with leading comrades of Korea to share feelings of friendship. I express heartfelt thanks for this.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I convey warm greetings of Comrades Deng Xiaoping, Yang Shangkin and Li Peng and other leading comrades of the Communist Party of China to respected Comrade General Secretary Kim Il-song, and leading comrades of Korea and, through you, best wishes of the Chinese people to the fraternal Korean people.

I paid an official goodwill visit to your country at the head of a Chinese party and government delegation in 1981. That was an unforgettable visit for me. I was deeply impressed by the time-honored historical civilization of Korea, the revolutionary spirit displayed by the Korean people in the struggle to defend the independence of the country and to build socialism and the achievements registered by you. Since then, I have hoped to visit your country again.

After taking up the post of general secretary of our party, I said on a number of occasions that I would visit first the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, our close neighbour, if I would make a foreign trip, and meet Comrade Kim Il-song and exchange views on matters of common concern, thereby deepening mutual understanding and promoting Sino-Korean friendship, and see at first hand the achievements made by the Korean people in socialist construction under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea. This desire of mine has been realised at last today.

A little more than seven years have passed since my last visit to your country. In those years, the Korean people, united closely around the Workers' Party of Korea and Comrade Kim Il-song, have made new and greater successes in socialist construction by displaying the spirit of independence and sovereignty, and hard struggle. These achievements of yours have substantiated once again that the Korean people are hard-working, courageous and sagacious people and the Workers' Party of Korea is a wise party.

Now the Korean people, in hearty response to the call of Comrade Kim Il-song and the Central Committee of the Workers' party, are striving to fulfil the third 7-year plan ahead of time, accelerate socialist economic construction and achieve national reunification at the earliest possible date. The Communist Party and people of China deeply admire and warmly hail this.

The two parties, two countries and two peoples of China and Korea forged great friendly relations with blood in the common struggle against imperialism and today support, trust and understand each other in socialist construction. These friendly relations were established and cultivated personally by Comrades Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai in their lifetime together with Comrade Kim Il-song; they conform with the fundamental interests of our two peoples and are favourable for peace and stability in Asia and the rest of the world. We greatly value these friendly relations and will make positive efforts to develop them to a new stage together with the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people.

The Communist Party of China and the Chinese Government have consistently supported the Korean People's just cause of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country. We are deeply interested in the relaxation of the tension and stability on the Korean peninsula.

From last year, the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean Government have put forward comprehensive measures for the guarantee of peace and taken various reasonable initiatives for the promotion of national reunification, thereby making great efforts to ease the tension on the Korean peninsula and create a favorable climate and conditions for a peaceful reunification of Korea. We resolutely support this. We have consistently maintained that the United States must withdraw all its troops and military setups from South Korea and stop the joint military exercises liable to increase the tension in this region. Because, they go against the worldwide trend toward detente and are unfavorable to the stability of the situation on the Korean peninsula. We consider that the question of Korea's peaceful reunification must be resolved by the Korean people themselves without any foreign interference. We believe that the indefatigable efforts of the entire Korean people will surely bring the day of the peaceful reunification of Korea.

Now a turn is taking place in the international situation and it has already become a powerful worldwide trend that confrontation is turning into dialogue and tension is turning into detente.

Although various factors causing the strain of the international situation and disturbance have not disappeared totally yet, it is quite possible to reach the goal of creating an international environment of peace of relatively long period thanks to the strenuous efforts of the world people.

Facing this favorable international situation, the Communist Party of China and the Chinese Government will maintain more unshakably the line of keeping to the four cardinal principles and reforms and opening to the outer world with main stress on the economic construction put forward at the Third Plenary Meeting of the 11th Central Committee of our party in 1978. As we have maintained this line, signal successes have been made in various fields of China in the past 10 years. We have already attained two years earlier than schedule the target of

doubling the gross social output value, the people's standards of living have improved largely and a great progress have been made in scientific, educational, cultural and other domains. It has already been proved in practice that the line pursued by us is a correct line.

Now the Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party of China are struggling to build our country as a prosperous democratic and civilized socialist state in a short period, overcoming all hardships, while dynamically advancing with the conviction of certain victory along the line of the Third Plenary Meeting of the 11th Central Committee of the Party.

Comrade Zhao Ziyang proposed a toast to the great friendship between the two parties, two countries and two peoples of China and Korea, to the good health and long life of respected Comrade general secretary Kim Il-song and to the good health of respected Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Kim Il-song, Zhao Ziyang Hold Talks

SK2504080589 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
0718 GMT 25 Apr 89

[Text] Talks were held between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Zhao Ziyang.

Talks were held today in Pyongyang between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], and Comrade Zhao Ziyang, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

Present at the talks on our side were Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and premier of the State Administration Council; Comrade Ho Tam, member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Choe Kwang, candidate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army; Comrade Kim Yong-sun, member of the WPK Central Committee and director of a department of the party Central Committee; Comrade Kim Tal-hyon, member of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the External Economic Affairs Committee; Comrade Chu Chang-chun, member of the WPK Central Committee and our country's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the PRC; and Comrade Cha Pong-chu, vice minister of foreign affairs.

Present on the opposite side were Comrade Wu Xue-qian, member of the Communist Party of China Central Committee Political Bureau and vice premier of the State Council; Comrade Hong Xuezhai, deputy secretary general of the Central Military Commission of the CPC Central Committee; Comrade Zhu Liang, member of the CPC Central Committee and head of the International

Liaison Department of the party Central Committee; Comrade Liu Shuqing, vice minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Luo Yunguang, vice minister of railways; Comrade Wen Yezhan, the PRC's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to our country; and other members of the entourage.

The talks were held in a comradely, sincere, and friendly atmosphere.

Wreath Laid at Martyrs Cemetery

SK2504105189 *Pyongyang KCNA in English* 1041 GMT
25 Apr 89

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—Comrade Zhao Ziyang, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, on an official goodwill visit to Korea today laid a wreath in the revolutionary martyrs cemetery on Mt. Taesong. The cadres accompanying him and his entourage were present on the occasion.

Also present were Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president; Ho Tam, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Choe Kwang, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army; director of a department of the WPK Central Committee Kim Yong-sun, chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the Party and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee Choe Mun-son and DPRK Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to China Chu Chang-chun, who are members of the WPK Central Committee; and Cha Pong-chu, vice-minister of foreign affairs.

A guard of honour of the Korean People's Army was lined up there.

The national anthems of Korea and China were played and Comrade Zhao Ziyang laid a wreath in the revolutionary martyrs cemetery with his party amid the wreath-laying music.

The attendants observed a silent tribute in honour of the revolutionary martyrs who devoted their lives to the sacred cause of the freedom and happiness of the Korean people.

Then the honour guard had a march past.

The guests went round the revolutionary martyrs cemetery.

Wreath Laid at Friendship Tower

*SK2504110089 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1048 GMT
25 Apr 89*

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—Comrade Zhao Ziyang, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, on an official goodwill visit to Korea, laid a wreath at the Friendship Tower on April 25.

Present on the occasion were senior officials accompanying him and other members of the entourage.

Present were Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president; Ho Tam, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Choe Kwang, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the C.C., the WPK and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army; director of a department of the WPK Central Committee Kim Yong-sun and DPRK Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to China Chu Chang-chun, members of the WPK Central Committee; and Cha Pong-chu, vice-minister of foreign affairs.

A guard of honor of the Korean People's Army lined up at the Friendship Tower.

Choe Mun-sun, member of the C.C., the WPK, chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the Party and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee; and officials of the Chinese Embassy in Pyongyang and a staffer of the liaison office of the Chinese People's Volunteers to the Military Armistice Commission were at the Friendship Tower.

The national anthems of China and Korea were played. Comrade Zhao Ziyang, together with his entourage, laid a wreath at the Friendship Tower amid the playing of the wreath-laying music.

The participants observed a moment's silence in memory of the martyrs of the Chinese People's Volunteers who laid down their lives in the Korean war against the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

Then a march past of the guard of honor took place.

The guests went round the tower.

Zhao Presents Gifts

*SK2504110389 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1053 GMT
25 Apr 89*

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers'

Party of Korea, were presented today with gifts by Comrade Zhao Ziyang, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

Present on the occasion were Wu Xueqian, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and vice-premier of the State Council; Hong Xuezhai, deputy secretary general of the Military Commission of the CPC Central Committee; Zhu Liang, member of the CPC Central Committee and head of the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee; and other suite members.

Present were Yon Hyong-muk, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and premier of the Administration Council; Ho Tam, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Choe Kwang, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army; and others.

Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il saw the gifts and expressed thanks for them.

Obituary of KPA Col Gen Chon Mun-uk

*SK2404163589 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1615 GMT
24 Apr 89*

[Text] Pyongyang April 24 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Central Military Commission of the WPK issued the obituary of Comrade Chon Mun-uk.

Colonel General of the Korean people's Army Comrade Chon Mun-uk, member of the WPK Central Committee, Deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and president of Kang Kon Military University, to our sorrow, died at 00:05 today at the age of 71 from a long illness, says the obituary.

He took part in the glorious anti-Japanese armed struggle organized and led by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and fought devotedly for the freedom and independence of the country he actively struggled to strengthen the People's Army and defend the gains of the revolution and, during the great Fatherland Liberation War, made a contribution to ensuring the victory in the war at an important post of the People's Army.

After the war he strove hard to strengthen the revolutionary forces politically and ideologically and in military technique and worked energetically to train military commanding officers and increase the military capacity of the People's Army, upholding the military line of our party.

Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il Visit KPA Unit
*SK2504104589 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033 GMT
25 Apr 89*

[Text] Pyongyang April 25 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song visited unit No. 763 of the Korean People's Army and congratulated heroic KPA officers and men on the 57th anniversary of its founding.

At 9 in the morning President Kim Il-song arrived at the unit.

The moment stormy cheers of "Long live the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song!" burst forth while the band struck up the welcome music.

President Kim Il-song was accompanied by Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), member of the Central Military Commission of the party and secretary of the Central Committee of the party; Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and premier of the Administration Council; and Comrade Chon Pyong-ho, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee.

He was greeted at the unit by Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, member of the Central Military Commission of the Party and Minister of People's Armed Forces; Comrade Choe Kwang, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army; KPA General Kim Kwang-chin and Colonel Generals Cho Myong-nok and Yi Pong-won who are members of the WPK Central Committee, and other generals and officers of the KPA and commanding officers of the unit.

A bouquet of flowers carrying the feelings of unbounded reverence of the entire officers and men of the KPA was presented to President Kim Il-song.

A welcome function for him took place at the unit.

He reviewed an honor guard of the three services of the Korean People's Army after the national anthem was played.

He acknowledged the enthusiastic cheers of the army-men and warmly congratulated the officers and men of the People's Army on the 57th anniversary of the foundation of the KPA.

He acquainted himself with the military drill at the unit and went round the combat equipment.

He noted with deep satisfaction that the People's Army has grown in strength into [a one-] a-match-for-a-hundred revolutionary armed forces firmly prepared politically and

ideologically and equipped with modern science and technology and military equipment of latest types through a strict application of the chuche-based military line of our party and gave programmatic instructions which would serve as a guideline in strengthening and developing the people's army into invincible revolutionary armed forces.

President Kim Il-song in company with the members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee posed for a photograph with officers and men of the unit.

Choe Kwang Makes Speech at KPA Report Meeting
*SK2504053089 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0803 GMT 24 Apr 89*

[Speech by General Choe Kwang, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea (WPK) and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army (KPA), at a central report meeting to mark the 57th anniversary of the founding of the KPA held at the 8 February Hall of Culture on 24 April—live]

[Text] [Applause] Comrades: Under the majestic circumstances in which all workers throughout the country are carrying out magnificent struggles of creation and construction, unanimously rising in the grand socialist advance movement for prosperity and development of the fatherland and people, we mark the 57th anniversary of the founding of the KPA, the revolutionary armed forces of our party.

On this felicitous day, upon the authorization of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, I, in the name of the Politburo of the WPK Central Committee, warmly congratulate our courageous officers and men of the Army, Navy, and Air Force of our People's Army and the People's Security Forces who are reliably defending the socialist fatherland and revolutionary gains by cherishing the lofty loyalty to the party and to the revolution. [applause]

At the same time, I express my deep respect to the anti-Japanese revolutionary patriots, the fighters of the People's Army, and patriotic fighters who dedicated their precious lives to the freedom and independence of the fatherland and to the party and the revolution. [applause]

I also extend warm congratulations to the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters, disabled veterans, and discharged soldiers who effected heroic exploits during the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and the harsh Fatherland Liberation War and who continuously make the flowers of the revolution in socialist construction bloom. [applause]

I express deep appreciation to all the people including the workers and peasants who are effecting new innovations each day in all sites of the rewarding struggle of great socialist construction, responding to the party's call, and who love and sincerely help the People's Army as their own kin. [applause]

Comrades, the revolutionary armed forces of the working class are the leading forces in the struggle to defend the independence of the nation and sovereignty of the people against outside imperialist aggressors and are directly in charge of safeguarding the party and the revolution with the means of armed forces in building a socialist and communist society.

Only when the working class and its party have their own powerful revolutionary armed forces, can they achieve the cause of anti-imperialist national liberation, defend the victory of the revolution, strengthen the main force of the revolution, and firmly ensure the persistent development of the revolution.

The cause of founding the genuine revolutionary armed forces in our country was finally achieved brilliantly as the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song victoriously led our people's revolutionary struggle for independence, standing at the van of our people. [applause]

Although there were such armed units as the volunteer army and independence army that rose in the struggle against the Japanese imperialist aggressors in our country before and after the Japanese imperialists' occupation of Korea, they failed to take root deep among the popular masses and were not led by a correct strategy and tactic. Thus, they were forced to be destroyed one by one by the antirevolutionary forces of the enemy.

During the dark period when the whole country was immersed in a sea of blood and the national ordeal was in its peak due to the barbarous repressive atrocity of the Japanese imperialists, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song organized and carried out the armed struggle against the Japanese imperialists based on his deep insight into the historic lessons of the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle and into the demand of our developing revolution and based on the immortal *chuche* idea.

He put forth outstanding lines and policy for our people to build genuine revolutionary armed forces in order to carry out such armed struggle. [applause]

The policy of carrying out the organizational armed struggle by regular revolutionary armed forces advanced by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was the *chuche*-oriented policy which enabled the Korean people to carry out the Korean revolution by their own strength, bearing the responsibility. This policy was the wisest policy which firmly ensured the decisive victory in the colonial national liberation war and in the anti-imperialist revolutionary struggle. [applause]

During the difficult period when there were neither the foundation nor leadership of the nation's armed forces and when the whole nation was covered by the colonial repressive net of the Japanese imperialists, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, based on the policy of building the *chuche*-oriented revolutionary armed forces, pushed ahead with preparatory works one by one to realize the revolutionary armed forces by overcoming various difficulties through a long bloody struggle. Based on such preparations, he finally organized the anti-Japanese people's guerrillas—the first revolutionary armed forces in our country—on 25 April 1932 and declared the founding of our revolutionary armed forces to the whole world. [applause]

The Korean People's Revolutionary Army [KPRA] was a genuine army of the people which was composed of advanced workers, peasants, and patriotic youths and which had blood ties with the people. The KPRA was a *chuche*-oriented (?armed forces) which struggled to achieve the independence of the nation and social liberation with our people's own strength by taking the great *chuche* idea as a guideline.

The founding of the KPRA was the precious fruition of the energetic struggle of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song who carried out activities without a rest or sleep to build a genuine revolutionary armed force of the working class in our country. This was a historic event which effected a turning point in our people's anti-Japanese national liberation struggle and in the overall development of the Korean revolution. [applause]

With the founding of the KPRA, our people's desire to have our own mighty revolutionary armed force was brilliantly realized. From this very time, the glorious history of our revolutionary armed forces began and the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle in our country developed into the highest stage of colonial national liberation struggle—the stage of the organizational armed struggle by regular revolutionary armed forces. [applause]

Developing the revolutionary armed forces built during the period of national liberation struggle into a powerful modern regular armed forces was an inevitable process in building the revolutionary armed forces. Strengthening and developing the KPRA into regular revolutionary armed forces were an earnest demand for the victorious advance of the Korean revolution after the national liberation.

Based on the indispensable demand for building an independent state and on his deep insight into the situation created in our country after the liberation, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forth the three tasks of building the party, building the nation, and building the army and achieved the cause of building the regular armed forces in a timely manner together with

the founding of our party and the government of the revolution. Thus, he firmly ensured the new development of our revolution. [applause]

As the KPRA was strengthened and developed into the KPA, our country has been able to highly demonstrate its grand appearance as an independent nation with a mighty self-defense capability and our people could vigorously accelerate the chuche revolutionary cause while reliably defending our fatherland and revolutionary gains from the aggression of the imperialists and various class enemies.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Through heroic and self-sacrificing struggles, the KPA honorably fulfilled the revolutionary missions assigned by the fatherland and the people and registered brilliant achievements in the history of our party's revolution.

Over a long period of more than a half century since its founding to the present, our People's Army tenaciously fought by following the path indicated by the party and the leader while courageously breaking through various storms.

Amid the gunfire of the two harsh revolutionary wars to expel outside imperialist aggressors, our revolutionary armed forces have been tested and disciplined politically, ideologically, militarily, and technologically while undergoing trials of fierce class struggle to suppress the resistance of the overthrown exploiting class and to accomplish the democratic revolution, socialist revolution, and socialist construction. Thus, our revolutionary armed forces have grown to be powerful revolutionary armed forces with rich experiences. [applause]

The anti-Japanese armed struggle, which was the first chapter in the militant path traversed by our revolutionary armed forces, was the glorious revolutionary struggle in which our people, under the banner of the chuche idea, won victory against the powerful imperialists for the first time in history. At the same time, it was the heroic struggle that they unyieldingly carried on for a long period of time under incomparably arduous and difficult conditions. [applause]

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song always firmly adhered to the chuche-oriented stand throughout the entire period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle and uniquely solved all the difficult and complicated problems in the armed struggle and the overall Korean revolution from the line and method of struggle to the expansion and consolidation of the ranks of guerrillas, the organizational and ideological preparations for the founding of the party, the formation of the anti-Japanese united national front, the establishment of the popular foundation of the revolution, the establishment of guerrilla bases, and the adoption of guerrilla strategies. Thus, he wisely led the KPRA and people along the single road of victory. [applause]

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's outstanding military strategies and tactics and his peerlessly clever guerrilla tactics were the decisive factors that enabled the KPRA to overcome the enemies' qualitative and technological superiority and to be ever-victorious, always with strong initiative. [applause]

During those arduous days of the armed struggle during which they had to go through the forest of guns and bayonets, the KPRA members, with firm belief that the Korean revolution would be certainly victorious when they advanced along the path shown by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, politically and ideologically protected and defended the headquarters of the revolution by sacrificing their lives.

With determination that they would be honored on the road of the revolution, whether they survived or not, they became living examples of the indomitable spirit and loyalty with which they would unhesitatingly sacrifice their youth and lives at any time and under any circumstances. [applause]

Though they suffered all kinds of difficulties and trials amid the severe coldness, starvation, endless battles with the hundred-times larger enemies, and ceaseless hard marches, the KPRA members mercilessly crushed the Japanese imperialist aggressors and effected ceaseless upsurges in the anti-Japanese armed struggle with the strong revolutionary spirit that they would defeat the enemies to win the victory of the Korean revolution and rescue the lost fatherland and trampled nation, even if they had to die hundreds of millions of times. [applause]

The KPRA, as the political army which, while struggling for the interests of the people, educates the people and organizes and mobilizes them in the revolutionary struggle, vigorously pushed ahead with the task of strengthening the might of the main force of the revolution and establishing an organizational and ideological foundation for founding the party by firmly rallying the popular masses of broad strata under the banner of the anti-Japanese struggle.

Throughout the entire period of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, the KPRA members, under the slogan that guerrillas cannot exist without the people, just as fish cannot survive out of water, lived and struggled in the blood relations with the popular masses and fully displayed their noble trait as the true army of the people and as the revolutionary army. [applause]

During the days of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, the KPRA was always loyal to proletarian internationalism. The communists of Korea, shoulder to shoulder with the outstanding sons and daughters of the Chinese people, carried on the joint struggle against the Japanese imperialist aggressors and struggled in protecting the Soviet Union, the first socialist country in the world, with arms.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, at a decisive time when the revolutionary situation at home and abroad was becoming even more favorable for the Korean people's anti-Japanese national liberation struggle, fully mobilized the KPRA units in the decisive final battles for the liberation of the fatherland and finally won the great victory in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle by defeating the Japanese imperialist aggressors. [applause]

In the flames of the arduous armed struggle against the Japanese imperialists, the main force of the Korean revolution was formed, the brilliant revolutionary tradition of our party and the tradition of heroic struggle were firmly established, fundamental changes took place in the destinies of our fatherland and nation through the victory won in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, and a broad way was paved for our people to build a new society. [applause]

If the heroic anti-Japanese armed struggle was an incomparably arduous and prolonged guerrilla warfare against the most atrocious imperialist (?enemies), the 3-year fatherland liberation war following the liberation was the most severe modern warfare in which our People's Army, by displaying mass heroism, defeated the U.S. imperialists, chieftains of world imperialism, for the first time in history and defended its fatherland.

It was indeed a miracle that our young People's Army, which had just been developed into the regular armed forces following liberation, won victory in the fight against the strong U.S. imperialists in the fatherland liberation war.

At that time, the relations of strength between us and the enemies were beyond comparison numerically and technologically.

In the Korean war, after mobilizing their huge army, air, and naval forces, which were equipped with modern weapons and up-to-date military technology, the U.S. imperialists even brought in the armies of their 15 allied nations and employed all of the cruelest and most barbarous means of war.

It was entirely thanks to the wise leadership of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the great military strategist and ever-victorious iron-willed commander, that our People's Army and people could have been victorious in a battle against such an enemy. [applause]

Basing himself on his uncommon resourcefulness and outstanding military judgment, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song presented unique strategic policies and chuche-oriented strategy suitable to the realities in our country at every step of the war and has led our People's Army to sure victory with his tested skill at commanding.

Our People's Army soldiers, who have become the masters of (?plants) and the party and experienced humane living and genuine happiness for the first time in the bosom of the fatherland after national liberation, have come to cherish the notion that the fatherland is more valuable than their own lives and that it is natural and reasonable for them to pay back the benevolence of the respected and beloved leader who has liberated their fatherland by laying down their lives. They have fought against the aggressors with their indomitable fighting spirit, at the risk of their lives, and displayed highly the heroic traits of our revolutionary armed forces. [applause]

The heroic feats performed by the men and officers of our People's Army, including the defenders of Hill No 1211 who, despite the rain of fire caused by tens of thousands of shells and bombs that flew, fought like phoenix with a conviction of certain victory and a revolutionary rosy view; the combat personnel on the 1 March Height; and the soldiers of the coastal battery company on Wolmido who fought to the last drop of their blood against the enemy's 50,000-strong troops and hundreds of ships, have clearly shown that no imperialist aggressors can conquer the people who have risen up in defense of their fatherland's freedom and independence, cherishing their loyalty to the party and leader as faith. [applause]

Our people's fatherland liberation war was an all-people resistance struggle in which the front and rear, the army and people fought together and in which all the people, regardless of sex or age, extended assistance to the front.

Our heroic working class produced such military supplies as weapons and ammunition while overcoming indescribable difficulties and ensured wartime transportation. Meanwhile, the peasants sent food supplies to the front and women fought reliably in place of their husbands and fathers to defend the rear.

During the grave days of the Fatherland Liberation War, the peoples of the fraternal socialist countries supported us materially and spiritually and the Chinese people helped our people in their just struggle with blood by sending their volunteers. [applause]

Our people always remember this and are grateful for it.

Thanks to the heroic struggle of our People's Army and people who rallied firmly around the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the just fatherland liberation war that was waged to repel the U.S. imperialist aggressors came to an end with our great victory. Thanks to the unrivaled mass heroism demonstrated in the fatherland liberation war, our People's Army and people have come to enjoy the high respect of the people of the world as the heroic army and heroic people who have broken the myth about the U.S. imperialists being powerful and have put them on a downward slope. [applause]

In the postwar period, too, our People's Army, which has bravely overcome the grave test of war, smashed the enemies' aggression and new war provocations at every step, credibly defended the safety of the fatherland and people, and firmly guaranteed the victorious advance of the revolution and construction by the force of arms.

During the difficult period when enemies within and without were intensifying their maneuvers and the betrayers of the revolution challenged the party and revolution, our People's Army defended with its life the party Central Committee, led by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song, and firmly safeguarded our party's cause for the serious social reform and enormous construction projects. [applause]

In particular, what we are enormously proud of when we look back on the glorious course of struggle of our revolutionary armed forces and their proud accomplishments is that the entire ranks of our People's Army were filled to the bursting point with loyalty to the party and leader during the period of imbuing society with the *chuche* idea, the new high stage of our revolution, under our party's slogan of imbuing the entire Army with the *chuche* idea. [applause]

Our party, which is ceaselessly deepening and developing the *chuche*-oriented military theory after having brilliantly embodied the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's self-defense military ideology and lines, has presented an extraordinary program for the founding of the army designed to further strengthen our People's Army as the leader's army as well as the party's army by imbuing the entire Army with the *chuche* idea and by arming all the soldiers firmly with the *chuche*-oriented outlook on the revolution. It also has firmly turned our People's Army into steel-firm revolutionary ranks by energetically leading the overall work of building the revolutionary armed forces. [applause]

By advancing under the tested leadership of our party, our revolutionary armed force has brilliantly inherited the noble tradition of loyalty to the leader, which was formed in the beginning of its founding. Even today, it serves as a fortress and a shield in defending the party and leader. Herein lie the greatest honor, pride, and reward of our People's Army. [applause]

Today, within our People's Army the party's ideology and will are at once the ideology and will of the army, as well as its firmly unwavering conviction. It is the true nature and noble trait of our People's Army to live and struggle with single-minded determination to have absolute trust in our party's ideology alone; to breathe and think according to the dictates of the party's will; and share the same fate with the party to the end, no matter how the situation at home and abroad may change and no matter what difficulties it may encounter. [applause]

Our People's Army, which is doing its utmost to defend the working masses' independent rights and interests, has also performed great labor feats with its active participation in the construction projects for the country's prosperity and the people's happiness, while wonderfully discharging its duty of defending the fatherland.

Our People's Army soldiers, who rush to the most difficult socialist construction sites at the beckoning of the party with the endless honor and pride of being the defenders of the fatherland and the creators of the people's happiness, have demonstrated their unrivaled devotion and collective heroism. The eye-dazzling labor feats they have attained in the course of building the great monumental creations that make the era of the Workers' Party shine will be forever passed on to the generations to come along with our fatherland's boundless prosperity. [applause]

Indeed, the proud and victorious course our revolutionary force has traversed is a history of heroic feats that has faithfully carried out its noble mission and role in the sacred struggle for national liberation and national prosperity and wealth. It is also a course of rewarding struggle which has blazed the road of an independent development for the revolution of national liberation in a colony and attained an encouraging example in the anti-imperialist cause of independence, while creating unprecedented military miracles.

Because of the existence of the victorious and invincible KPA, which was founded and fostered amid the flames of the glorious anti-Japanese armed struggle, which was tempered amid the trials of the great fatherland liberation war and the fierce class struggle, which has been firmly armed with the *chuche* idea, and which has been equipped with up-to-date military technology which accords with the situation of our country and the demands of modern warfare, the security of our fatherland and the victory of our revolution have been firmly guaranteed. [applause]

With the implementation of the policy of arming all of the people and turning the whole country into a fortress along with the strengthening of the People's Army according to our party's self-defending military line, an all-people's defense system with the People's Army as its kernel has been firmly established in our country today and, thus, we have provided the powerful self-defending national defense capability which can easily smash any aggressors and firmly defend the socialist fatherland. [applause]

All brilliant exploits and achievements engraved on the glorious course along which our revolutionary armed forces have traversed in the past are the great victory of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's self-defending military ideology and a noble result of the excellent and tested leadership of the party and the leader. [applause]

At this significant meeting which celebrates the 57th anniversary of the founding of the KPA, together with the feeling of infinite reverence and the mind of burning loyalty of all the people and the officers and men of the People's Army, I extend the utmost honor and the warmest gratitude to Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people, who founded the revolutionary armed forces of chuche; who rescued the destiny of the nation and defended the sovereignty of the fatherland by defeating the powerful enemies, the U.S. and Japanese imperialists; and who has changed our country into a powerful independent, self-reliant, and self-defending socialist country by leading the party and the people. [applause]

Comrades, objecting to the imperialists' policy of aggression and war and defending national sovereignty and dignity are the sacred duty of an independent people.

As long as imperialists remain on earth, their aggressive nature can never change nor can mankind's cause of peace and independence escape from constant threats.

Amid the strained situation of the country caused by the maneuvers of aggression and the provocations of split-tists at home and abroad, our people are today waging the struggle for national reunification and the complete victory of socialism.

In recent years alone, our party and the government of the Republic, which have consistently made sincere efforts to peacefully solve the Korean problem, have put forth countless constructive proposals to ease tension on the Korean peninsula, including the four-point principle on guaranteeing peace and a comprehensive peace proposal, and have even taken practical measures of unilaterally reducing armed forces in a drastic way according to the proposals.

They put forward, at the beginning of this year, a new reasonable proposal, which makes it possible to make substantial progress in guaranteeing peace in the country and expediting peaceful reunification, and have made steady and patient efforts to realize it.

However, in the nearly half a century since they illegally occupied South Korea up until today, the U.S. imperialists have invariably sought to perpetuate the division of Korea and hold South Korea as their permanent colony and nuclear military base by concocting two Koreas in our country according to their aggressive strategy toward Asia and the Pacific, maintaining the colonial fascist rule with all substantial power in South Korea in their hands. Also, they have actively egged on the South Korean military, fascist elements to confrontation and war maneuvers.

Turning away from our reasonable ways for national reunification and repeated advice, the United States and the South Korean persons in authority conducted the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise again this year. This is a grave criminal act of inciting North-South

confrontation, of further increasing the danger of nuclear war in our country, and of blocking our just and above-board peace proposals from being realized.

At a time when withdrawing foreign forces from foreign territories and peacefully and politically resolving disputes in the international stage has become the trend of the times, the United States, while continuously maintaining its forces of aggression in South Korea, thousands of kilometers away from its territory, and inspiring persons in authority in South Korea to continuously utter the theory of southward invasion nonexistent on the Korean peninsula, is endlessly kicking up powder-reeking acts of war and military provocation maneuvers against us from the ground, the sea, and the air. This is an anachronistic act that can in no way be justified under any pretext.

Confrontation between patriotic forces who insist on anti-Americanism, independence, and reunification and who demand democracy and the treacherous forces who follow the U.S. policy of aggression, who betray the nation, and who run counter to reunification has become acute in South Korea. When the trend of resolving the issue of reunifying the country through contacts and dialogue with us has become prevalent among the South Korean people of all walks of life, the persons in authority in South Korea, after taking off the veil of democratization, have moved to revive the notorious dictatorship of the Fifth Republic and has perpetrated the fascist suppression of the patriotic democratic forces in an all-out manner.

The South Korean military fascist clique illegally detained Rev Mun Ik-hwan, South Korea's renowned democratic figure, and his entourage, who returned home after visiting Pyongyang in an effort to open a big avenue for dialogue, reunification, cooperation, and exchange between the North and South. This violent and uncouth brutality clearly shows how far its antidemocratic and antinational crimes have gone.

Because of the frantic suppression of the democratic forces in South Korea by the military fascist clique, all of the South has again turned into the dark area of the dictatorial Fifth Republic where even the people's basic human rights and democratic rights have been ruthlessly suppressed and obliterated, and a grave obstacle has been created in the way toward North-South dialogue. Today's South Korean situation bears a close resemblance to the time when, challenging the democratic and reunification forces after the 19 April 1960 popular uprising, the Pak Chong-hui ring staged the 16 May military coup d'etat and the time when, taken aback at the spring of democratization, which was budding in the early eighties, the Yusin remnants perpetrated the large-scale brutal Kwangju massacre after committing the 17 May fascist violence.

Under the pretext of the single channel of dialogue, the persons in authority in South Korea detained and imprisoned personages who held dialogue with us for reunification and suppressed democratic forces who demanded reunification. This clearly shows that dialogue and reunification, which they had so far talked about, were all false. History clearly shows how dearly those who rejected national unity and reconciliation, who embarked upon the antidemocratic, antidialogue, and antireunification road, and who bestially suppressed and punished the people and dissident democratic forces who embarked upon the road toward reunification and national salvation paid for the nation.

The youths and students, workers and peasants, intellectuals, religious figures, and people of all walks of life in South Korea, who realized through actual experiences that they will not be able to realize their earnest desire for democracy and the peaceful reunification of the country as long as the U.S. imperialists' colonial rule and the toadyist and treacherous acts of the military fascist clique continue, are more fiercely raising the flames of the struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification and against the anticommunist fascistization policy of the U.S. imperialists and the puppet clique and their maneuvers to perpetually divide the nation.

Using this opportunity, we, as their brothers of the same blood, extend warm fraternal support and encouragement to the South Korean people who are boldly waging a righteous patriotic struggle in defiance of the fascist suppression of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges. [applause]

Today, if the danger of war in our country is to be removed and if the issue of reunifying the country is to be resolved peacefully, an end must be brought to the political and military confrontation, tension must be alleviated, an arena of broad-based dialogue upon which the entire nation's will can be reflected in a democratic manner based upon the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity must be provided.

If it sincerely wants peace, detente, and reconciliation on the Korean peninsula, the United States, squarely seeing the reality in our country in which the trend of reunifying the fatherland has become an unstoppable tendency, must change its policy toward Korea in compliance with this reality and must accept tripartite talks, proposed by us, at the earliest possible date, instead of unchangingly seeking the two-Koreas policy and inspiring the South Korean military fascist clique into confrontation and war maneuvers. Also, it must not perpetrate acts of war that may aggravate the situation in our country to the utmost and that may provoke conflicts and must withdraw from South Korea at the earliest possible date along with the nuclear weapons and all other strategic weapons.

If they are interested in North-South dialogue and reunification and if they have an intention to resolve the reunification issue through dialogue, the persons in authority in South Korea must stop seeking their anti-communist policy of confrontation, kicking up their maneuvers to fabricate two Koreas, and suppressing the democratic forces in South Korea in a fascist manner, must unconditionally release all the democratic personages and people of all walks of life, including Rev Mun Ik-hwan, whom they unjustly arrested and detained, and must abolish the antinational and antireunification National Security Law.

We must not, under any circumstances, allow the nation to be sacrificed due to the fondling of the outside forces and the territory of the fatherland to be eternally divided into two and to turn into the ground for a nuclear war provoked by the United States.

Today, because of the U.S. imperialist aggressors' occupation of South Korea and two Koreas plot of the splittist forces, obstacles and difficulties have been laid on the road to national reunification. However, the international solidarity supporting our people's just cause has been strengthened with each passing day and the overall situation of our country is advancing toward the direction favorable to national reunification.

In the course of advancing history, it is natural for the confrontation and struggle between the progressive and reactionary forces to take place. It is indispensable that the progressive force win the victory in this course. Amid active support and encouragement by the people of the world, our people will accomplish the historic cause of national reunification without fail with united strength by crushing the maneuvers of the splittist forces and by actively pushing forward the trend of the situation which is developing favorably. [applause]

The grave yet glorious missions laid before us and prevailing situation demand that all the people and soldiers of the People's Army maintain the posture of keener alert and of being mobilized more than before and strengthen our revolutionary forces in every way.

The might of our revolutionary forces lies in the indomitable unity and cohesion among the leader, the party, and the masses. We should further consolidate the single-hearted unity of the revolutionary ranks in which all the people and the entire army are united around the party and the leader based on the *chuche* idea, and should demonstrate their might in all domains of the revolution and construction.

Upholding the revolutionary slogan, "Let us all live and struggle like heroes!" put forward by our party, all the workers and officers and men of the People's Army should demonstrate the sense of peerless dedication and mass heroism in the socialist construction and the outposts of defending the fatherland with such spirit and courage as displayed in the 200-day campaign. Thus,

they should decorate this year—the last year of the eighties—as another victorious year on the rewarding path for prosperity of the nation and happiness of the people. [applause]

Following the brilliant design for socialist construction elucidated by the party, we should rapidly develop the machine tool industry and electronic and automation industry and should accelerate the construction of power stations and major plants and facilities including the Sunchon Vinalon Complex. We should also normalize production at a high level by directing great strength to the revolution of the light industry and to the development of the rural economy and railway transportation. Thus, we should further demonstrate the superiority of the socialist system in our country.

Constantly strengthening and developing our People's Army into a one-a-match-for-100 revolutionary army under the slogan of modeling the entire army after the *chuche* idea and revolutionarizing the entire army is a guarantee to expedite the revolutionary cause of *chuche*. All officers and men of the People's Army should cherish deep in their hearts the lofty awareness and honor of being the defenders and the revolutionary army of the working class; should firmly arm themselves with the revolutionary ideology of our party, the *chuche* idea; should thoroughly establish a *chuche*-oriented outlook on the revolution; and should resolutely safeguard and defend the party and the leader politically, ideologically, and with their lives at any time and under whatever circumstances. [applause]

All officers and men of the People's Army should unconditionally implement the party's policy, order, and instruction to the entire army and should thoroughly establish the revolutionary ethos of solving all problems which arise in military construction and military activities in conformity with the party's will and demands. Thus, they should further strengthen our People's Army into combat ranks of the indomitable revolutionary fighters who struggle for the victory of the *chuche*-oriented revolutionary cause of the party. [applause]

We should emulate the noble example of the martyred anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters who were infinitely loyal to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in the period of the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, should be loyal to the party and the leader under any arduous and difficult circumstances, and should thoroughly implement the party's policy of converting the entire Army into a cadre army and of modernizing the entire army. Thus, we should more firmly prepare our People's Army politically, ideologically, militarily, and technologically.

Unity between the army and the people is the source of the strength of our People's Army and is a lofty spirit that has been inherited since the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

The officers and men of the People's Army, by highly displaying the fine traditional custom of unity between the army and the people in which they defend the people's lives and property at any time and place at the risk of their lives and the people sincerely love and help the People's Army, should fully demonstrate the invincible might in which the army and the people are firmly united as one mind and one will.

Today, the imperialists and all of the class enemies, provoking the trend of history, are perpetrating desperate maneuvers in a bid to obliterate the revolutionary cause of the popular masses for independence. However, this is nothing but a foolish delusion of those who are dying.

Holding aloft the banner of independence, friendship, and peace, the Korean people will, in the future, too, develop friendly and cooperative relations with the people of socialist countries, the people of nonaligned countries, and the people of all countries of the world who safeguard independence and vigorously continue the struggle for the victory of the anti-imperialist cause for independence. [applause]

There is no strength in the world that can block the advance of our people and the People's Army who are struggling for the just cause holding aloft the banner of the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural. [applause]

Let us all firmly rally around the WPK Central Committee headed by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song and vigorously struggle to expedite the complete victory of socialism and the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and to consummate the revolutionary cause of *chuche*. [applause]

Long live Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people. [applause and shouts]
Long live the glorious WPK, the organizer and guide of all victories of the Korean people. [applause]

South Korea

Trade Talks Friction With U.S. Discussed

* Negotiation Failures Analyzed

41070088 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN
in Korean 20 Feb 89 p 4

[Article by U.S. correspondent Chang Yong-song: "Trade Negotiation Breakdown Analyzed"]

[Text] U.S. trade policy in 1989 toward its trading partners, including Korea, gives the impression of a cat teasing rats.

Administration and congressional leaders' frequent threats, such as implementation of the super Article 301 of the 1988 trade act, now sound redundant and boring to partners like the EC and Japan, as well as to Korea.

The U.S.-Korean trade negotiations held between 13 February and dawn of the 17th (0530 local time) in Washington, D.C., were also a continual tug-of-war of unilateral threats between the two sides.

The Korean side, in particular, was pushed into a corner because Korea was defined as an unfair trade partner of the United States in the telecommunication market, although the announcement of this decision was postponed until 23 February.

It was apparent that the Korean delegation was deeply concerned about the negative response that would arise from the Korean people when negotiations failed and Korea was named as an unfair trade partner.

Therefore, the Korean delegation came to the negotiating table with a considerable number of concessions.

Despite the attitude of the Koreans, negotiations ended in failure because of the U.S. side's superior attitude in the negotiations and its hard-to-accept demands.

The U.S. delegation's demands were in three broad categories: 1) open up the market and guarantee U.S. business ventures in the entire communication services market, except the telephone and telegraph field; 2) open up the communications services market earlier than planned (by January 1991); and 3) allow participation by U.S. business in competitive bidding for government contracts in communication.

The issue of U.S. participation (market opening) in the I VAN (international value-added network) business in Korea was the most controversial of the negotiations.

The Korean delegation was very determined not to open the market for I VAN business, but was willing to make concessions in some communications services, including satellite communications, the domestic VAN business, electronic mail, the aviation VAN business, and so on.

Korean delegates explained that they cannot open the I VAN market, because it would be against national interests to allow foreign enterprises to gain control of information systems around Korea.

As for the timing of opening the communication services market, the U.S. side's January 1991 schedule and the Korean side's January 1992 plan (later changed to July 1991) were the point of confrontation.

The issue of government contracts was passed over without much debate, because of fierce discussion about the opening of the communication services market.

Some Korean delegates commented that the U.S. side came out with an "all-or-nothing" attitude in their demands, instead of a negotiating attitude.

It can be concluded that this rigid U.S. attitude was based on three U.S. assumptions: 1) that the United States can apply the new U.S. trade law; 2) that, in contrast to other partners, Korea has no power to retaliate; and 3) that Korea is very vulnerable to pressure, and so.

In addition, strong pressure from lobbyists representing U.S. Chamber of Commerce members, including IBM, which would be a direct beneficiary of opening the communications services market, was also an important factor in the U.S. side's rigid attitude. These lobbyists remained around the negotiating room, pressuring the delegates whenever possible.

Besides the issue of authority over the Korean information systems, the Korean side's negotiating failure was also caused by the fact that their delegates were from the Ministry of Communications, the Korean Communications Corporation, and the Data Communications Company who are also direct beneficiaries in the communications services field.

Thus, concessions on both sides were inevitably circumscribed because they involved the life and death of the beneficiaries directly involved in this field.

Because of the breakdown of negotiations, however, it became certain that Korea would be identified on 23 February as a priority country with priority trade practices in the communication field.

According to Article 1374 of the 1988 U.S. trade act, the U.S. Trade Representative [USTR] is supposed to report the priority countries, which maintain laws or policies that block mutually profitable trade opportunities, to the President and Congress by 23 February. Then the President is supposed to establish practical goals and organize official negotiations for each priority country. In case of a breakdown in the talks, the government can take appropriate measures to implement Article 301.

It is stipulated that the implementation should begin within 18 months after the start of the investigation (this can be extended to 42 months based on the President's judgment of the negotiation's prospects).

Therefore, a practical approach to the negotiations and success in the negotiations in the future remain very important determinants of this trade matter.

Korea has tried to accept the United States' standpoint, at least better than has the EC, and this attitude will be taken into account in the negotiations, too.

The EC countries designated on 23 January as unfair trade partners, like Korea, in the communication field are unresponsive, at least on the surface.

The EC is a tougher adversary for the United States than Korea, because of the sharpened emotional confrontation after the EC's meat hormone trade conflict at the beginning of the year.

Furthermore, the EC can maintain its tough position in negotiations even after being identified as an unfair trade partner because the EC countries have a certain amount of retaliatory capability.

Some people noted that the USTR deliberately concealed the fact that it reported the EC and Korea as priority countries to the White House on 15 February.

One Washington source said that the State Department hoped for smooth negotiations this time, probably because of its concern about anti-Americanism spreading in Korea.

This source also mentioned that Korea will be excluded from the super 301 priority country list (unfair practices priority country) expected this coming May, if it is identified as an unfair practices priority country in the communications field.

Other sources in Washington commented that this USTR measure will throw dark shadows, rather than bright lights, on President Bush's Seoul visit.

*** Super 301 Implementation Discussed**

41070088 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN
in Korean 21 Feb 89 p 4

[Article by U.S. correspondent Chang Yong-song: "Ramifications of Super 301 Delineation"]

[Text] The U.S. Congress and the media are waiting expectantly for the first implementation of the super 301 article of the 1988 U.S. trade act, scheduled for April and May this year, as if they were awaiting the opening of a much talked-about movie.

The attitude of the Senate Finance Committee, the counterpart of the government's trade policy makers, seems particularly unyielding.

At the confirmation hearing last month of USTR [U.S. trade representative] Carla Hills, committee chairman Lloyd Bentsen warned, "this committee promises that it will pass a new implementing law if the government does not carry out the 1988 trade act effectively."

The media is closely watching whether the new administration can effectively carry out the new trade act and the super 301 article, a strongly political issue, and what kind of conflict between the executive and the legislative branches will come out in the process.

The U.S. Government has been discreetly pressing the countries concerned, instead of revealing them in relation to super 301, which stipulates the selection criteria

of the general unfair practices priority countries. Nevertheless, recently this issue was openly mentioned by the U.S. Commerce Department and the Trade Policy Advisory Council. Last week Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher publicly criticized the ineffective conclusion of the U.S.-Japanese semiconductor agreement, saying, "Japan should be on top or next to the top of the list of the unfair practice priority countries."

The Advisory Council on Trade Policy and Negotiation, which exists as the President's advisory body on trade policy, however, proposed to postpone the decision on Japan on super 301.

In the 121-page report, this council pointed out that the United States should change its trade policy toward Japan from the existing policy of promoting open markets to a result-oriented policy (including improvement of the trade deficit and so on).

This proposal is based on the unsatisfactory trade results obtained so far, despite considerable progress in U.S.-Japan talks on elimination of trade barriers. The U.S. trade deficit with Japan still remains about \$55-60 billion.

The council concluded that to make a final decision on implementation of super 301 concerning Japan it is necessary to conduct this comprehensive revised trade policy for 1 year.

Meanwhile, the AFL-CIO labor organization expressed its objection to this proposal by announcing that super 301 should be carried out this year.

The State Department is also concerned about super 301. It is known that the State Department is particularly concerned about potential political conflicts between the two countries if the U.S. identifies Japan as an unfair practices priority country.

All these moves among the related U.S. institutions reflect the fact that super 301 implementation involves political aspects and more than just economic aspects.

Super 301 was included in the 1988 trade law by revising the Gephardt reform bill. It is really not much different from the Gephardt plan, which requires compulsory reduction of the trade surplus of partner nations.

In this sense, implementation of super 301 has the potential for disrupting the world's free trade order under the GATT system.

The EC is already prepared for a fight with the United States, after its meat hormone problem in early 1989.

Last week's U.S.-EC negotiations, held in Washington, D.C., remained a tight tug-of-war between the two parties.

In the Geneva GATT meeting held earlier, the U.S. Trade Act was strongly criticized by Japan, Brazil, and many other countries, as well as by the EC countries. In particular, more than fifty countries supported the complaints filed with GATT by Brazil, after U.S. retaliation last October because Brazil violated pharmaceutical intellectual property rights.

GATT authorities strongly stated the worldwide complaints against the United States, emphasizing that such wide support for a complaint is an unprecedented phenomenon.

Of course the biggest issue for Korea is whether we will be included in the super 301 list. Nothing is announced publicly, however, about this matter. The USTR is not sure yet in a strict sense. The existing rumor about the possible candidates, including Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Brazil, the EC, and France is but a guess.

It is true that all these countries have the distinct potential to be included on the list, considering pressure from the U.S. Congress, the position of the executive officers who implement the law, and the U.S. trade deficit, which does not look like it will be reduced drastically this year. Needless to say, when we consider the huge impact super 301 might have, we should try our best to avoid its implementation.

Another problem, however, is an excessive persecution complex. This kind of mentality easily stirs up emotions and consequently can backfire at future negotiations. The U.S. delegation could demand drastic concessions by the Korean side in the U.S.-Korea trade negotiations held last week by making full use of this kind of persecution complex in Korea.

On the basis of existing trends, it is almost sure that U.S. trade pressure on Korea will continue with the same intensity, whether or not Article 301 is implemented with regard to Korea. In other words, U.S. pressure for concessions from the Korean side will not end even if Korea can escape the Super 301 list by offering compulsory concessions.

Super 301 stipulates that the USTR can carry out Article 301-related investigations on arbitrarily designated countries, even when these countries are not included in the unfair country list in May.

Even though it is not confirmed, it seems true that the USTR excluded Korea from the super 301 list, while identifying it as an unfair partner country in the communications field immediately after the U.S.-Korea communications negotiations. Meanwhile, Korea will not be prosecuted immediately, even when it is identified as one of the super 301 countries, for it has 3 more years of negotiations.

Regardless of Article 301, the real question is how effectively Korea can handle the negotiations in terms of practical gain.

*** Coordinated Lobbying Necessary**

41070088 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN
in Korean 22 Feb 89 p 4

[Article by U.S. correspondent Chang Yong-song: "Poor Lobbying Effort Criticized"]

[Text] International trade friction is always accompanied by the idea of increased lobbying. Stress on the necessity of expanded lobbying is true in every country.

Senator Lloyd Bentsen, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, made the following special request at the confirmation hearing of U.S. Trade Representative [USTR] Carla Hills:

"The Japanese ambassador to the United States visits my office an average of once a week. Japan made various efforts to block the passage of the 1988 Trade Act last year. I believe the Japanese are spending more than \$100 million annually on lobbying activities."

With these revealing remarks, Bentsen also stressed that "the USTR and the U.S. ambassadors to the EC should conduct this kind of active lobbying to deal with the EC unification scheduled for 1992."

The Bentsen request boils down to the attitude that the United States should try to reflect U.S. interests in the early stages of the various systematic reforms that the EC is preparing for its 1992 unification.

The lobbying activities can gain maximum results only if lobbyists participate in the decisionmaking process of the target as early as possible.

Nevertheless, this participation should be based on proper approaches drawn from information gathered about the opinions of the target. It is well known that Japan holds the lead in sophisticated lobbying activities.

Japan's lobbying activities cover not only the U.S. Government and Congress, but also the media. It is so powerful that the largest U.S. daily papers, such as THE NEW YORK TIMES and THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, occasionally support Japan's standpoint on the trade conflict issue in their editorials.

There is a strong theory that the talk about "Korea as the next Japan" is also the product of Japan's lobbyists.

How far have Korea's lobbying activities progressed compared to Japan's efforts?

Korean lobbyists, such as Korean Embassy officials in Washington, D.C., and New York, and other related lawyers, all mentioned failing grades without hesitation for this question.

One official in the Korean Embassy in Washington clearly answered the question about the financial resources for lobbying. "It is assumed to be \$3-4 million for all Korean issues, which is only one-tenth that of Taiwan."

This officer also added that information gathering and sometimes even preliminary discussion-level activities are possible on the U.S. Government side. But even information gathering is not smoothly carried out in the field of U.S. businesses, interest groups, and the media.

Unsystematic lobbying activities easily fall into erratic selection of targets.

A good example was the U.S.-ROK trade negotiations held in Washington, D.C., last week. They broke down despite the Korean side's tireless efforts, not only because of Korea's unprepared spontaneous attitude, but also because of a wrong decision about the focal point of the target. In other words, the Korean side tried to fight with the USTR, who are merely representatives of the businesses really involved, rather than negotiating with the real players, like IBM, etc.

At the U.S.-ROK trade negotiations site, representatives from various U.S. businesses were supporting the U.S. Government representatives, staying in the room just next to the negotiating place.

There are many reasons for Korea's weakness in lobbying activities in the United States, including the lack of comprehensive trade policies based on unified talks between the government, National Assembly, and business. Nevertheless, we have to point out the passive attitude of the businesses as the most serious problem.

Even though it is in the initial stage, our lobbying activities on trade with the United States are still initiated only by the government.

Trade authorities complain that large business conglomerates, who are the largest beneficiaries of trade lobbying, are taking a detached attitude.

All four major Korean conglomerates—Daewoo, Lucky Gold Star, Samsung, and Hyundai—have offices in Washington, D.C. However, only the Lucky Gold Star office is managing an appreciable level of lobbying activities; the others' activities are negligible.

This need for more aggressive lobbying by the business conglomerates can be pointed out in terms of business ethics.

For instance, our exports by small and medium-sized businesses can possibly be blocked if Korea is identified as a 301 country because of the government's overprotection of large-scale business. Large businesses can be indifferent to the issue of intellectual property protection, which mainly entails pirate publication of foreign books. The trade friction problems which, however, arise from this issue can eventually develop into restrictions on Korean automobile exports to the United States.

The source of U.S.-Korea trade friction is mostly in U.S. businesses. Therefore, Korean businesses that are the counterparts of these U.S. businesses should lead lobbying activities to gain effective results from them.

Strictly speaking, many cases of export dumping originated because Korean business wanted to sell the same products in the domestic market at prices much higher than export prices. But in most cases, the concerned enterprise complained that the government should handle the problem when they found the U.S. business had filed complaints against the dumping price.

Of course, the government is responsible for this kind of problem, too.

In the United States, various government organizations, such as the USTR, which was organized with about 130 trade experts, the Departments of Commerce, Treasury, and State, work together and approach the trade issue with a unified platform.

In Korea's case, there is no systematized and unified front line for the issue of trade with the United States. Even the existing trade policy easily becomes ineffective because of frequent personnel changes, the consequent lack of expertise, a result-oriented attitude by the heads of related ministries, the spontaneous, unprepared responses of these ministers, etc.

In this line, one trade lawyer in Washington, D.C., pointed out, "the Korean side is always on the defensive in the U.S.-Korea trade talks because of lack of information."

According to another source, one congressman who received a visit from the Korean Trade Mission last year stayed for 5 minutes for group pictures and then left after a simple 2 to 3 minute welcoming statement.

The attitude of this anonymous congressman tells us the truth about our lobbying activities toward the United States.

Efforts To Ease Friction Reviewed

SK2304005089 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
23 Apr 89 p 8

[Article by staff reporter Choe Won-sok: "Last Minute Efforts by Seoul Against Priority Country Designation Hardly Successful"]

[Text] The government is launching intensive last minute efforts to avoid being designated as a priority foreign country which engages in unfair trade practices with the United States.

But Korean endeavors appear to be too late in the face of America's large trade deficit with the nation.

Korea and the United States held working-level negotiations in Washington April 11-13. The Korean mission led by Assistant Trade-Industry Minister Kim Chol-su failed to straighten out outstanding bilateral trade issues.

Trade-Industry Minister Han Song-su flew to Washington on April 15 but he also was unable to reach a satisfactory compromise. He will return home today empty handed.

The U.S. Trade Representative will single out priority foreign countries (PFCs) adhering to unfair trade practices with the United States in its report to the Congress by May 30 in accordance with Super Section 301 of the strongly protectionist omnibus trade bill.

Armed with Super Section 301, the United States is pressing the Korean government to open its agricultural market wider, to remove special laws restricting imports and promoting localization of products and to liberalize foreign investment.

Other bilateral trade issues related to the omnibus trade bill are the protection of intellectual property rights and the liberalization of the Korean telecommunications industry.

The United States has already designated Korea as an unfair trading partner in connection with what it calls the closure of its telecommunications market.

It was generally expected that the U.S. Trade Representative would put Korea atop the list of priority foreign countries adhering to unfair trade practices.

Among other countries to be blacklisted are Japan, the 12-member European Community, Taiwan, India and Brazil.

To avoid being labeled a PFC, the government announced earlier this month the import liberalization of more than 400 agricultural and fisheries products over the next three years.

However, the step failed to ease trade friction with the United States even though it caused strong protests from domestic farming and fishing households.

Instead, the United States insisted on a wider opening of the agricultural market when Trade-Industry Minister Han visited Washington.

If Korea is designated as a priority foreign country in accordance with Super Section 301, the government is obligated to negotiate with Washington over outstanding bilateral trade issues for up to one and a half years, 20 days after its being listed.

The United States will be able to impose trade sanctions against Korea even during the negotiating period.

Super Section 301 empowers the U.S. Trade Representative to curb the import of any specific item or all products from any country which sticks to unfair trade practices against the United States.

In case the government reaches an accord with the United States during the negotiating period, it is obligated to remove or ease unfair trade practices within three years after the start of negotiations.

Korea will be dealt a severe blow in its exports to the United States if it is listed as an unfair trading partner even before Washington resorts to trade retaliations.

In addition, its image in global trade and economy will be tarnished.

Against this backdrop, the government is set to escalate trade negotiations with the United States before the U.S. Trade Representative singles out PFCs by May 30.

First of all, a second round of working level negotiations will be held in Washington on Tuesday and Wednesday. Assistant Trade-Industry Minister Kim will again head the Korean delegation.

Deputy Premier-Economic Planning Minister Cho Sun will leave for Washington on Friday to negotiate solutions to bilateral trade issues.

It was learned that the government has already prepared some concessions to avoid the designation as a priority foreign country.

Government sources, however, said that those concessions do not include further liberalization of the agricultural market.

In the meantime, there are perplexing reports circulating these days that Japan may not be designated as a PFC.

The United States enacted the protectionist omnibus bill aimed at Japan in consideration of its snowballing trade deficit with Tokyo.

But a high ranking official at the Trade-Industry Ministry said that Japan would be surely named as one of the priority foreign countries along with Korea.

The official, who will take part in working-level negotiations in Washington this week, said, "If the U.S. Trade Representative does not blacklist Japan, the United States will draw severe criticism from the world."

Many business experts are now bitterly complaining about what they call the government's too late efforts to diffuse trade friction with the United States.

Noting that trade friction with Washington can't be solved by the government itself, they stressed that the government should increase the activities of lobbyists for Korean interests in the United States as Japan and Taiwan have done so far.

PPD Sends 'Protest Team' to Embassy
SK2504114889 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
25 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] In a meeting held on the morning of 25 April, the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] decided to send a protest team to the U.S. Embassy in connection with the controversial trade conflict with the United States. The protest team is composed of PPD Vice President Choe Yong-kun, who heads the team; Kim Pong-ho, chairman of the PPD policy-making Committee; Yu Chun-sang, chairman of the Economic and Scientific Committee of the National Assembly; Ho Kyong-man, chairman of the Commercial and Industrial Committee of the National Assembly; and Cho Sun-song and Yi Heng-pae, National Assemblymen from the PPD.

The protest team will meet Brooks, U.S. Embassy deputy chief of mission, this afternoon [25 April] and lodge a strong protest against U.S. pressure on South Korea to open its markets to U.S. agricultural and livestock products.

Japan's Position Sought on No Tae-u Visit
SK2504063589 Seoul YONHAP in English 0623 GMT
25 Apr 89

[Text] Seoul, April 25 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u may postpone his visit to Japan, scheduled for late May, because of Noboru Takeshita's decision to resign as the Japanese prime minister, Foreign Minister Choe Huchung said Tuesday.

After learning of Takeshita's announcement of his decision to step down, Choe told reporters that the government anticipates an explanation from the Japanese Government of its position on the visit.

"However, judging from the current situation in Japan, we think it is necessary to re-examine President No's visit," Choe said.

He also said the timing of the trip will be determined through negotiations with Japan.

KAL Bomber Receives Death Sentence

SK2504061589 Seoul YONHAP in English 0600 GMT
25 Apr 89

[Text] Seoul, April 25 (YONHAP)—Fresh-faced North Korean agent Kim Hyon-hui, 28, was sentenced to death Tuesday for the 1987 midair bombing of a South Korean airliner over waters off Burma that killed all 115 people aboard.

Seoul District Court Judge Chong Sang-hak, finding her guilty of violating the National Security Law and aviation laws, accepted the prosecution's demand for capital punishment 17 months after the incident and 81 days after she was formally indicted.

Kim sobbed into a handkerchief when the judge read the verdict. About a dozen of the victims' relatives, who have strongly called for confessed saboteur to be put to death, listened calmly as she was sentenced to hang.

Kim's lawyers said that they would decide whether to appeal this week after consulting with her. Korean criminal law stipulates that an appeal for anyone sentenced to life imprisonment or worse must be filed within one week. Should Kim fail to appeal within one week, the verdict against her will be confirmed automatically.

The government is widely expected to grant a special amnesty to save Kim from death. Kim has constantly said she wants to die to atone for the deaths of the people she killed in the airliner.

Chong, in sentencing Kim, said she had committed "an extremely cruel and malicious act in carrying out Kim Chong-il's order to bomb Korean Air [KAL] Flight 858, attempting to disrupt the 1988 Seoul Olympics and deal a blow against South Korea."

Kim Chong-il, son and heir apparent of North Korean President Kim Il-song, reportedly heads subversive operations against South Korea.

In a televised press conference in January last year, a remorseful Kim Hyon-hui said that she was acting on Kim Chong-il's instruction when, with a male colleague, she planted a bomb disguised as a radio and a liquor bottle on the KAL jet as it flew from Baghdad to Abu Dhabi.

The North Korean pair, posing as father and daughter, got off the plane at Abu Dhabi and the ill-fated airliner continued on its way, disappearing on Nov. 29, 1987, as it flew toward Seoul over the Andaman Sea off Burma. Kim and her colleague saboteur, posing as Japanese tourists, were arrested a short time later in Bahrain, where they attempted to commit suicide by swallowing cyanide hidden in cigarettes. The other North Korean agent, an elderly man, died on the spot, but Kim survived and was extradited to Seoul later.

South Korean officials, meanwhile, have hinted that Kim will be pardoned because she was acting under orders and has repented.

Cambodia

Thai Assembly Group Arrives for Official Visit *BK2104124589 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1104 GMT 21 Apr 89*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 21—A 25-strong member Thai parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Phiraphan Phalusuk, M.P., and second vice chairman of the Prachakon Party of Thailand, arrived here this morning for a four-day official visit.

The delegation, the second of its kind since the country's liberation, was received at Pochentong Airport by Sok An, deputy foreign minister, and a number of members of the Kampuchean National Assembly.

The first Kampuchea visit by a Thai parliamentary delegation was made in January 1989. It was then led by Piyanat Watcharaphon, M.P. of the Sisaket constituency.

Tie Banh Receives Delegation *BK2504083789 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Apr 89*

[Text] Comrade General Tie Banh, party Central Committee member, Council of Ministers vice chairman, national defense minister, and Cambodian-Thai Economic Cooperation Committee chairman, granted an audience to the Thai parliamentary delegation led by Phiraphan Phalusuk, vice chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Prachakon Party of Thailand, at the Council of Ministers office on 22 April.

Speaking on the occasion Comrade Tie Banh welcomed the parliamentary delegation's visit which contributed to promoting the policy launched by Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan to turn Indochina from a battlefield into a marketplace. The comrade also recalled the time-honored traditions and customs linking the Thai and Cambodian peoples and pointed out the multifaceted achievements gained by the Cambodian revolution over the past 10 years, especially the remarkable development of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Armed Forces, including the regular, regional, and militia forces, which were capable of fully assuming the tasks of defending the motherland in place of the repatriated Vietnamese volunteer troops.

In his reply, Phiraphan Phalusuk paid high esteem for the progress made by the Cambodian revolution during the past 10 years. He said what he had witnessed contradicted the malicious propaganda conducted by the Cambodian opposition and a number of countries in the West. He added that the Thai people heartily welcomed Hun Sen's visit to Thailand, which constituted a significant political event in the search for peace, for which both the Cambodian and Thai peoples aspire.

On the withdrawal of all Vietnamese troops from Cambodia by this September with or without a political solution, Phalusuk viewed this as genuine goodwill on the part of the three Indochinese governments. The Thai parliamentary delegation also expressed concern over Pol Pot and denounced some countries in the West for purposely ignoring and expressing doubt over the Vietnamese military withdrawal from Cambodia. Moreover, the delegation committed itself to carry the truth in Cambodia to the knowledge of all Thai parliament members and people, and held that if the Thai parliament had a common view about Cambodia, this could create a force to push the Thai Government into reviewing its policy toward Indochina.

Hun Sen Meets With Delegation *BK2504125389 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1105 GMT 25 Apr 89*

[Text] "The Thai Government has an important role in the prevention of the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime to Kampuchea," said Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Kampuchea [PRK], at his reception here Monday [24 April] of a Thai parliamentary delegation led by Phiraphan Phalusuk, vice chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives of Thailand and deputy from Yasothon Province, which left Phnom Penh the same day after a four-day visit.

Hun Sen, who is also P.R.K. foreign minister, welcomed the Thai parliamentary delegation's visit to Kampuchea as a contribution to the consolidation and development of the Kampuchean-Thai cooperation. He briefed his guests on the search for a political solution to the Kampuchean issue and the results of the JIM-1 and JIM-2 [first and second Jakarta informal meeting] which, he said, have created a framework for the settlement of the Kampuchean problem. He said that after the total pullout of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea the concerned countries must honor their commitments to cease military aid to all opposing Khmer factions.

In reply, Mr. Phiraphan Phalusuk, who is also vice chairman of the "Prachakon Party" of Thailand, thanked the National Assembly and Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea for the warm welcome and hospitality given to his delegation during its visit to Kampuchea. He considered the decision on the complete pullout of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea by the end of September this year as a "starting point to build peace in Kampuchea." He said that although there remains a number of differences, nothing can prevent the two peoples' efforts to promote their friendly ties. He said he had witnessed through the visit the Kampuchean people's efforts in national construction and defence. "I am willing to contribute to the search for peace in Kampuchea," he affirmed.

While here, the Thai delegation was received on separate occasions by Chea Sim, Politburo member of the P.R.P.K. [People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea] Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the National Council of the United Front for Construction and Defence of the Kampuchean Fatherland; Tie Banh, Politburo member of the P.R.P.K. Central Committee, minister of national defence and president of the Commission for Kampuchean-Thai Economic Cooperation; and Nu Beng, vice chairman of the National Assembly. It visited the Tuol Sleng museum of genocide, the Cheung Ek mass graves in Phnom Penh, a P.R.K. army unit at Longvek, Kompong Chhnang Province, and the Angkor Wat Temple in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

Hun Sen, Tie Banh Remarks Noted

BK2504014589 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
25 Apr 89 pp 1, 3

[By Suwit Suwitsawat]

[Text] Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen said yesterday he wants to meet Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan to discuss issues he will raise with Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Jakarta on May 23.

Hun Sen also said a general election will be held in November after the Vietnamese withdraw by September 30.

Speaking after talks with members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee who returned to Thailand last night after a one-week tour of Kampuchea, Hun Sen said he had proposed a stop in Bangkok for talks with Gen Chatchai before and after the Jakarta visit.

He said he had already made contacts about meeting Gen Chatchai and was awaiting an answer.

"I understand the role of Premier Chatchai and the role of Thailand is important in resolving the Kampuchean conflict," he said.

Gen Chatchai's son, Mr Kraissak, said he had just been informed of Hun Sen's request but that "no official contacts have yet been made".

Mr Kraissak said he would inform his father of the development and that it would take one or two days to consider the request.

"Personally, I think the Premier should not meet Hun Sen until after the Hun Sen-Sihanouk meeting," Mr Kraissak said.

Khmer resistance leader Sihanouk is scheduled to visit Bangkok on Friday, and in order to get to Jakarta, Hun Sen will have to pass through Bangkok this week or early next week.

Gen Chatchai's meeting with Hun Sen this year upset Prince Sihanouk, who postponed his scheduled visit to Thailand this year.

Hun Sen's announcement of the election came in response to the question of who would be responsible for the Khmer administration after the Vietnamese withdraw.

The matter would be settled after the election of a coalition government, he said. "After the withdrawal, within three months, there will be elections."

Even if a political solution was not reached among the four Khmer factions, the Vietnamese will "definitely withdraw" by September, he said.

The problem of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea will not exist after September, he said.

In his talks with Prince Sihanouk, Hun Sen plans to raise the Vietnamese withdrawal, means to prevent the return of Pol Pot and civil war.

Hun Sen declined to say what role Prince Sihanouk would play after the withdrawal on the grounds he could not "speak on behalf of the people, those who decide are the people".

Yasothon MP [Member of Parliament] Phiraphan Phalusak, leader of the Foreign Affairs delegation, said Phnom Penh had asked it to convey three requests to Gen Chatchai.

Speaking in the presence of the Phnom Penh premier, the Prachachon MP said Hun Sen asked that Thailand keep its promise to end assistance to the Khmer resistance after the withdrawal.

Hun Sen also told the committee Phnom Penh was prepared to take back all Khmers in Thailand with the assistance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, MP Phiraphan said.

The Phnom Penh premier also asked that if political talks between the four Khmer groups fail, Thailand should host a meeting of the groups to resolve the conflict.

MP Phiraphan said Hun Sen could not agree to the Khmer resistance main demand that the Phnom Penh regime be dismantled.

In a separate interview, Defence Minister Tie Banh, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, said a number of Vietnamese technical experts and instructors would remain in Kampuchea after September.

Vietnam would leave a certain amount of weaponry but most equipment would be taken back with them, he said.

Tie Banh said Phnom Penh would change the name of the country, the flag and national anthem this month.

Commenting on reports France will provide the Sihanoukists with small arms, Tie Banh said: "If war breaks out, Vietnam and Laos will not let Kampuchea die alone."

Hun Sen also criticised the reports of French arms shipments, saying that all sides should end military support once the withdrawal is completed.

"I consider this action as boosting the morale of the resistance and which will create civil war," he said.

The French decision, he said, would reduce France's role in a resolution of the conflict, but the development would not halt the withdrawal.

Official To Attend Indochina Trade Symposium
*BK2404122689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1209 GMT
24 Apr 89*

[Excerpts] Bangkok, April 24 (AFP)—A senior official of Cambodia's Hanoi-backed Government will attend a regional symposium later this week here on trade and economic opportunities in Indochina, organisers said Monday.

They said the Cambodian regime, which has no diplomatic relations with Thailand, plans to send a top government official of deputy prime minister rank to the one-day symposium on Friday [29 April].

Although Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen, who made an unprecedented visit here in January as guest of Thai Premier Chatchai Chunhawan, has been invited, he will not take part, the organisers said.

Organisers did not identify the senior Cambodian official but diplomats said he could be Deputy Prime Minister Kong Sam-ol, in charge of economic affairs.

Thai officials declined to comment.

The symposium, organised by a Thai English-language daily THE NATION, the Hong Kong-based ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL and the Bangkok Board of Trade, will take place one day before Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk is due to arrive for an official three-day visit.

The conference will also be attended by leaders of Vietnam, including Hanoi's Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, as well as Hanoi-ally Laos, organisers and diplomatic sources said. [passage omitted]

There was no immediate explanation why Mr. Hun Sen would not attend the Indochina symposium, but diplomatic observers believed that his presence here would embarrass Thailand at a time when Prince Sihanouk was set to visit Bangkok.

An official Thai announcement said Prince Sihanouk would have talks with Mr. Chatchai on Saturday.

After his Bangkok visit Prince Sihanouk will travel to Jakarta where he is to meet in early May with Mr. Hun Sen for discussions expected to be crucial for prospects for a peace settlement to the Cambodian conflict.

A Vietnamese Embassy official said Mr. Thach was expected here Thursday and might stay in the Thai capital until next Monday.

The Vietnamese team at the symposium, which will be formally opened by Mr. Chatchai, also includes External Trade Minister Doan Duy Thanh.

Symposium organisers said the three Cambodian resistance factions had been invited to attend but that Prince Sihanouk's group had declined the invitation and the Khmer Rouge had made no reply.

It was unclear whether Mr. Son Sann would take part, they said.

Resolutions of Cadres Conference Discussed
*BK2404042089 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0137 GMT
24 Apr 89*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 22—A number of resolutions of great importance were adopted at the second national conference of cadres of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea held in Phnom Penh from April 5-12. The resolutions deal with amendments of the policies towards the management and use of land, the peasantry, the agricultural production and land exploitation through the mode of mutual aid teams, small industry and handicrafts in the household, private, collective and joint state-private sectors, and the private sector in public transport.

Amendments of the policy towards the management and use of land are aimed at effectively enriching the soil and boosting rice cultivation, the application of intensive and multicrop farming, livestock breeding, silviculture, and protection of the ecological environment. The peasants' interests must be ensured so that their living conditions keep improving and they will be ever more eager to produce more food for society and actively contribute to the development of national economy.

The state must create all possible favourable conditions for rice cultivation and assure the farmers of safety in land tenancy. Efforts should be made to help state functionaries and other working people better understand the benefit gained from agricultural development and other economic branches.

Land is classified into four categories: land for the construction of dwelling houses, rice and other crop fields, land afforestation, fishing grounds, and the state's reserves. [sentence as received]

Kampuchean refugees, misled people, and overseas Kampucheans who return to the nation's fold are entitled to full citizenship as other compatriots do in the country. They will be allotted plots of land for dwelling house and crop fields or newly-reclaimed areas according to concrete conditions of the locality where they live.

As regard to the policy towards the peasantry, the conference adopted some amendments aimed at defending the rights and interests of the peasants, consolidating the strategic alliance between peasants, workers and intellectuals, making better use of the energy, talent and capital of the peasants, raising the efficiency of land use and the capacity of the existing means of production, and motivating all people with no vocational skills to engage in agricultural production.

The peasants should be encouraged to boost production to contribute to national defence and construction. They should have their own organization, "the Peasants' Association," which represents them in social activities, especially in the protection of their rights and interests.

The peasants are entitled to land tenancy according to the state law and encouraged to stimulate production with the use of national resources and all means of production. Meanwhile the state encourages all state-run companies, private units, and individuals to import more means of agricultural production and will levy lower taxes on the sale and rent of these farm tools.

More investment will be reserved for the construction of medium- and big-size irrigation projects and the network of transport and communications. More technical and scientific bases will be built together with the introduction and application of advanced scientific and technical methods to agricultural production aimed at attaining ever higher output. The state will give a strong fillip to technical innovations in service of agriculture.

The peasants will be provided with all possible favourable conditions in landing loans from state banks. The state will study and enact a pricing policy based on concrete conditions of the country, thus making it a lever in the national economy. The peasants are entitled to circulate and sell their farm produce at their will. More attention will be paid to improving the peasants' living conditions.

On the policy towards agricultural production and land exploitation through the mode of mutual aid teams, the party and state encourage the peasants to promote their time-honoured tradition of mutual aid of other fine practices in farming as well as in other aspects of the social life. The application of intensive farming and scientific and technical progress to agricultural production will be given much more attention to accelerate the country's economic development. The decision made by the latest plenum of the party Central Committee on the consolidation of solidarity production groups is replaced by this resolution.

Solidarity production groups will be turned into groups of the working masses whose task is to manage the administrative work and care for the political, material, and cultural life of their members and undertake the defence of the locality.

The policy towards light industry and handicrafts in the framework of the four economic sectors including the household, private, collective, and joint state-private ones is amended to serve the transformation of the country's autarkic economy into a market-oriented one. Industrial production is to develop from a small scale to a big one.

To promote the production of light industry and handicraft, the state will encourage and facilitate the expansion of the four economic sectors while strengthening the state-run economic sector and making it the firm foundation of the national economy.

Equality among citizens of different social strata must be guaranteed to motivate productive forces to engage in production in line with the party policy and state laws.

The state encourages all economic sectors to tap their potentialities to spur up the production of consumer goods, expand the circulation of commodities across the country, produce export goods, and broaden trade with foreign countries.

All laws, rules, and directives relating to the four economic sectors should be carefully studied before promulgation to give a fillip to production.

The state assures that it will neither nationalize nor eliminate those production establishments if their activities are in line with the state policy. Moreover, the state will, far from interfering in their production, facilitate them by creating favourable conditions in granting permission for production and business operation.

Much attention should be paid to develop the production of Aliment, clothes, furniture, school articles, household utensils, cultural items and other commodities. Besides, the production of farm tools, farm produce processed items, means of transport, construction materials, consumer goods for export is also given a fillip.

Drastic measures will be taken against the production of explosive, toxic chemicals and fake goods. Any kind of production and business transaction detrimental to the people's health, state-run production, national assets and natural environment are forbidden.

The state will encourage production establishments of small industries and handicrafts to introduce and apply scientific progress and technical innovations to production, mobilize capital sent from their overseas relatives to import needed equipment or the expansion of production. Laws on preferential customs for the import of such items will be enacted.

However, production units are entitled to cooperate with individuals or scientific and technical research centres at home or with foreign institutions to introduce technical and scientific progress and apply them to production.

The state acknowledges the right of competition among production establishments and encourages them to promote production of goods, both quantitatively and qualitatively, to satisfy the need of the people at home and the requirements for export.

On the supply of raw materials to production establishments, there are two cases—raw materials will be provided by the state or they will be bought by production units itself. Anyway, the purchase of raw materials by production establishments must not be done in an unorganized way to avoid the state of anarchy in economic management; and the purchase of tobacco leaves, pine resin, and rubber should be carried out in an exclusive limitation.

Besides, the state should encourage the people to grow industrial crops or exploit forest products and expand fishery to procure more raw materials for production.

As far as the tax policy is concerned, the state will reduce taxes for establishments, units, and localities producing commodities for export or goods which had to be imported in the past.

On public transport run by the private sector, the state will allow the private sector to use and develop their means of transport for land, river, and sea route to meet the demand of economic growth and the people's movements. Hard currency can be used by private organizations or individuals living in the country or abroad to import means of transport and spare parts. Immunity for the import of means of transport and business transactions in this area will be stipulated by the state.

Opposition Comments on SRV Pullout Statement

SRV Envoy Comments Viewed

BK2104110589 (*Clandestine*) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Apr 89

[Political commentary: "Vietnam's Language Concerning the Cambodian Problem"]

[Text] Vietnam announced on 5 April that it would withdraw all of its troops in Cambodia by September of this year and called for various countries backing the Cambodian resistance forces to halt aid to the Cambodian parties. Vietnam said its decision was genuine and that even without a political solution to the Cambodian problem, it would certainly withdraw its forces. However, Le Mai, the SRV envoy to Thailand, told reporters in Bangkok Wednesday [20 April] afternoon that he was very optimistic about a settlement of the Cambodian problem but added that the Vietnamese puppet regime in Phnom Penh has the right to ask various friendly

countries to send troops back into Cambodia if foreign aid to the Cambodian resistance forces continues after the Vietnamese troop pullout, and Vietnam could eventually return. With regard to this kind of language, the Voice of the Khmer wishes to make the following remarks:

1. Le Mai's language conflicted with other Vietnamese leaders' comments—such as Nguyen Co Thach's statement saying that after its military withdrawal Vietnam would not return to Cambodia in any case.

2. The SRV envoy's language was in contrast to other Vietnamese leaders' language spelling out that Vietnam would withdraw its troops because it believed the puppet Hun Sen's forces were strong enough and capable of assuming their self-defense now.

3. Le Mai's language clearly demonstrated that Vietnam would always be waiting for a good opportunity to return to Cambodia. Otherwise, it would have allowed the presence of a UN international peacekeeping force in Cambodia instead of returning later.

Dear listeners, Vietnam's vociferous language is very ambiguous and incomprehensible, and it is used with the aim of maintaining the Vietnamese influence in Cambodia. The Cambodian people do not want to hear that language, except for the Cambodians named Heng Samrin, Hun Sen, and Hor Nam Hong. Vietnam's language is deceiving; its action is a savage, cruel aggression; the Vietnamese leaders are power-hungry people; and the Vietnamese puppets are bastards who want to always be Vietnam's lackeys. What is the fate of the Vietnamese people under the leadership of these sorts of people? And can the Cambodian people entrust their destiny to the group of puppets in Phnom Penh? Only the Cambodians who thoroughly know Vietnam's and its puppets' nature can give a correct answer.

Ranariddh Calls Plan 'Trick'

BK2504104589 (*Clandestine*) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Apr 89

[Text] Prince Norodom Ranariddh, personal representative of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in Cambodia and Asia and commander in chief of the Sihanoukist National Army [ANS], said Vietnam continues to implement a policy to annex Cambodia by changing its tactics through the announcement on troop pullout with no genuine supervision and through ordering the Heng Samrin regime to change its outside appearance.

He said this in a press communique released Monday, yesterday. He said the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops without genuine international supervision is Hanoi's trick and that this would allow Hanoi to prop up the Heng Samrin regime—its puppet—both before and after the fake troop pullout from Cambodia. He further said Vietnam has also ordered the Heng Samrin regime to change its outside appearance. He said the plan to draft a new

constitution unilaterally once again shows that the Heng Samrin regime is not independent and he affirmed that the Cambodian resistance movement categorically rejects the so-called new constitution to be drafted unilaterally and illegitimately by Vietnam's puppet regime. He said everything is not up to any one party but should be decided by the constitutional assembly freely elected by the Cambodian people within the framework of a four-party coalition government headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and under international supervision.

Announcement Seen as Pretext for Return

BK2504100189 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2300 GMT 24 Apr 89

[Station commentary: "No One Can Accept Vietnam's Legitimization Pretext"]

[Text] In Vietnam's so-called 5 April troop pullout announcement, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemies impudently said that if countries do not honor the promise to end assistance to Cambodian resistance forces, Vietnam's puppets have the right to request that the Vietnamese return to Cambodia.

Regarding this statement, people ask: Who promised or agreed with Vietnam, and since when? People still remember that at the Jakarta informal meeting Vietnam recited its statement and ordered its puppets in Phnom Penh and Laos to follow suit. After the meeting the Vietnamese declared that there was this and that agreement. Now they are saying that they will withdraw their troops in accordance with this agreement, and whoever does not honor his promise will be fully responsible. This is a shameless lie and exaggeration by the Hanoi Vietnamese.

Vice President Khieu Samphan, who attended both the first and second Jakarta meetings, noted in his 11 April 1989 interview that he had never heard of the agreement referred to by Vietnam. Various newspapers successively reported that the second Jakarta informal meeting in February did not achieve any results because Vietnam refused to unconditionally pull all of its aggressor troops out of Cambodia under UN supervision. Therefore, the above statement by the Hanoi Vietnamese is a pretext for Vietnam to continue committing aggression against and occupying Cambodia. And, if the current number of Vietnamese troops is not enough, Vietnam has the right to send more troops to Cambodia.

Over the past 10 years the Vietnamese enemies have been sending hundreds of thousands of troops to commit aggression against and occupy Cambodia. But they have failed to control Cambodia because Cambodian national resistance forces and the Cambodian people have united and fought back, killing or wounding many Vietnamese troops. The Vietnamese enemies have been trying to recruit Cambodian soldiers and to force Cambodians to be civil servants and serve the Vietnamese and supplement Vietnamese forces. Still, they have failed to control

Cambodia. Both Cambodian soldiers and administrative staff forced to serve the Vietnamese have been successively shaken and dismantled because of attacks by our National Army and because these people have successively opposed and deserted the Vietnamese.

This is why the Vietnamese are now trying to find a pretext to legitimize the dispatch of more Vietnamese troops to occupy Cambodia. The Vietnamese enemies have not even withdrawn their troops from Cambodia, yet they are already preparing ideas and excuses to come back to continue occupying Cambodia. This clearly shows that Vietnam has no goodwill to genuinely solve the Cambodian problem politically; they do not want to genuinely withdraw their troops from Cambodia. The Vietnamese announcements that they will withdraw their troops on this or that day are only maneuvers to avoid world punishment and pressure.

No one can accept the Vietnamese enemies' shameless legitimization pretext. The Cambodian people will not allow the Vietnamese enemies to commit aggression against and occupy Cambodia at will. They will continue to unite and fight the Vietnamese enemy aggressors. The world will also continue to put all kinds of pressure on the Hanoi Vietnamese to force them to genuinely withdraw all their aggressor troops from Cambodia—withdraw all of their troops and not return to Cambodia—under the careful supervision of the United Nations.

Reasons for SRV Fears Noted

BK2504092989 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 24 Apr 89

[Station commentary: "Vietnam Is Afraid of UN Supervision Because It Has Tricks To Maintain Its Aggressor Forces in Cambodia"]

[Text] In their 5 April announcement the Hanoi Vietnamese refused genuine international supervision. Furthermore, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, and more recently Le Mai, Vietnamese ambassador to Bangkok, accused the United Nations of not being neutral because the United Nations recognizes the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea [CGDK]; therefore, Vietnam will not allow the United Nations to supervise Vietnamese troop pullout from Cambodia.

1. The Hanoi Vietnamese's impudent and insolent statements about the United Nations—the world's supreme body—result from the position of the Hanoi Vietnamese who still consider themselves everyone else's masters.

2. These statements reveal Vietnam's tricks because Vietnam is afraid of supervision. It is afraid of UN supervision because it has tricks to maintain its aggressor forces in Cambodia. It has announced that it will withdraw but, in fact, it will not withdraw. This is why it is so afraid of genuine international supervision and that of the United Nations. Vietnam's goal is clear. It will not give up

Cambodia. It will not give up its Indochinese federation strategy. Vietnam is currently striving to oppose genuine international supervision, particularly that of the United Nations. And while the world is putting strong pressure on it and while it is being pressured to accept genuine international supervision, Vietnam still maneuvers to conceal its forces in Cambodia.

In fact, inside Cambodia, Vietnam has been busily and systematically ordering Vietnamese Army officers and troops to live in Cambodian villages, communes, and districts and disguise themselves as Cambodians by holding Cambodian identity cards and marrying Cambodian women.

The CGDK needs and wants UN supervision and the UN international peacekeeping force in Cambodia because it is sincere and wants to solve the Cambodian problem politically and comprehensively so that Vietnam genuinely withdraws all its aggressor troops from Cambodia and so that there is genuine national reconciliation with no one party dominating any other parties and monopolizing power alone. The CGDK appeals to the world to continue to put strong pressure on Vietnam until the latter agrees to withdraw all its aggressor troops from Cambodia under genuine supervision.

Philippines

✓ Further Reaction on Murder of U.S. Colonel

NPA Spokesman Confirms Role

HK2404110389 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0900 GMT 24 Apr 89

[Text] There is no doubt that the NPA is responsible for the killing of U.S. Army Colonel James Rowe. This was announced yesterday by Gregorio Rosal alias Comrade Roger, spokesman for the Melito Glor Command in Quezon Province.

It will be recalled that the National Bureau of Investigation [NBI] made a similar announcement but according to Comrade Roger, this was merely a theory, which the NBI reported before Romulo Kintanar made the official admission. Comrade Roger added that Kintanar is the chief of staff of the NPA.

Comrade Roger reported that as early as last year, the NPA had announced a plan to attack U.S. military installations and personnel actively engaged in the counterinsurgency drive. The killing of Rowe serves as a protest as well as warning against anyone involved in the counterinsurgency drive in the country. It is widely known that the United States is the leading opponent of a revolutionary transformation of the country:

[Begin Rosal recording] The announcement was issued by Rolly, Rolly Kintanar who is the chief of staff of the NPA. We only learned of the statement yesterday afternoon. As for the NBI announcement, it was only a theory because

Kintanar had not issued a statement at that time. The NDF had already issued a warning last year about attacks against U.S. military personnel, officers and installations, especially those actively involved in the counterinsurgency drive. You must know of the role of JUSMAG in the counterinsurgency operations in our country. This is an indication of protest as well as struggle against those who interfere in the insurgency problem in the Philippines. We all know that the United States plays a leading role in events in the Philippines. Hence, this was an operation conducted by our comrades in Metro Manila, as admitted by Kintanar. [end recording]

On how the problems of the country may be resolved, here is the reply of Comrade Roger:

[Begin recording] Well, Mrs Aquino has pretended to offer peace negotiations but with attached conditions. What revolutionary will agree to such terms? There is no way we are to surrender our arms before negotiations. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

That was NPA spokesman Gregorio Rosal in Quezon in an interview with Ellen Rabago of DZJO-Infanta, Quezon.

✓ Aquino Attends Service for Rowe

HK2504051589 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 25 Apr 89 p 20

[Text] A memorial service was held in Manila yesterday for a U.S. Army colonel assassinated by communist rebels last week, as police predicted further attempts to kill American military personnel.

Police assault teams armed with M-16 rifles surrounded the U.S. embassy in central Manila as President Aquino and aides made an unannounced visit to attend the services for Col James Rowe.

Embassy spokesman Jerry Huchel said Mrs Aquino "spent a few minutes with the widow and attended the memorial service in the courtyard."

✓ Capcom Says Rowe Not Intended Target

HK2504020789 Manila Far East Broadcasting
Company in English 2300 24 Apr 89

[Text] U.S. Army Colonel James Rowe, who was killed last Friday in Quezon City, was not the real target of assassins. This was revealed by Colonel Victor Tiangco, chief of the Capital Regional Command [Capcom], north sector. Tiangco said the real target is a higher ranking civilian official of the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group, where Rowe also is assigned. The Capcom chief said prior to the ambush, a white Toyota with plate number DDB359, the same plate used in the maroon Toyota, was the assassin's [word indistinct] hours after the killing, was seen passing several times in front of the JUSMAG compound. But Tiangco refused to elaborate on the identity of the intended victim saying they learned from reliable sources that the gunmen were out

to get any American official, military or civilian, to boost the morale of the rebel movement. Tiangco said that investigators are still looking into the NPA angle, although, they are not discounting other angles being pursued by other investigating agencies.

Meanwhile, PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] Chief Major General Ramon Montano in yesterday's Kapihan sa Maynila [Manila Coffee] Forum said the killing of Rowe is a political suicide on the part of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA. But Montano also warned of stepped up NPA harrassments and attacks on U.S. military personnel and installations in the country.

In another development, Congress frowned at the reported interference by the Federal Bureau of Investigations into the probe of the assassination of Rowe.

In a press conference with the Congressional Press Club, House Public Order and Security Committee Chairman Rodrigo Gutang of Cotabato welcomed the cooperation of the FBI in the probe, but rejected FBI attempts to take over the investigations as an interference in the internal affairs of the country. He specifically advised the executive branch against allowing the FBI from taking over the investigations and influencing Philippine judicial system. Gutang said his committee will request a report on the Rowe killing investigation on the institution of measures to prevent foreign interference in Philippine internal affairs.

✓ Search for Witnesses Continues

HK2504061389 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 25 Apr 89 p 20

[Text] Military authorities said yesterday that a joint American-Filipino team investigating the ambush of Col. James Rowe will use sophisticated investigative aids to analyze evidence that would lead to the identity of the gunmen.

At the same time, they issued another warning to American officials in the country to take extra security measures against renewed attacks by New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

The military also announced that a search for witnesses in the ambush of Rowe last Friday is going on.

Brig. Gen. Pantaleon Dumlao, PC Criminal Investigation Service (CIS) chief, said high-technology equipment will be used to analyze pieces of evidence recovered at the crime scene.

He said probers are working on various leads, including the testimonies of several witnesses, the getaway car used by the attackers, and the empty shells from high-powered rifles used in the ambush.

Dumlao said that he has sent CIS teams to various provinces to follow up leads given by "military assets," adding that searches on suspected hideout of the gunmen will be made thorough.

He reiterated previous military assessment that an elite group of NPA operatives is behind the ambush.

Col. Victor S. Tiangco, Capital Regional Command (Capcom) north sector commander, said Lito Puria, driver of Josie Alindogan whose car was stolen last April 7 in front of the Dominican College in Quezon City, may hold the key to the solution of the Rowe ambush.

He said a group of American forensic experts arrived yesterday to help speed up the investigation of the killing.

✓ Reports of U.S. Pressure Denied

HK2504051989 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 25 Apr 89 p 20

[By Robert Requintina]

[Text] Brig Gen Alexander Aguirre, Constabulary-Capital Regional Command (Capcom) chief and Metropolitan Police Force (MPF) director-general, said yesterday that there are no pressures coming from the American government regarding the investigation on the death of U.S. Army Col James Rowe.

Aguirre, whose command was assigned by President Aquino to probe the killing, clarified reports that the U.S. was pressuring the Philippine government on the case.

The Capcom chief said that the arrival of three agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) should not be misinterpreted, stressing that they will only provide technical assistance to "Task Force Rowe," a team of investigators of the Quezon City police, Capcom north sector, the Criminal Investigation Service (CIS), and the PC crime laboratory.

✓ U.S. Intervention Predicted

HK2404110589 Manila Manila Broadcasting
Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 24 Apr 89

[Text] Sorsogon Congressman Bonifacio Gillego warned today that the killing of U.S. Army Colonel James Rowe will lead to greater U.S. intervention in the government's counterinsurgency operations. At the same time, Gillego said the arrival of U.S. FBI agents is an indication of U.S. distrust of the competence of Philippine authorities.

Speaking in an interview, Gillego said that U.S. intervention in the insurgency war will become more explicit now:

[Begin Gillego recording in English] It is not surprising as the United States has always been involved, except that now, it will henceforth become more open and less clandestine, less covert. If, there are also indications of

successive NPA incursions into bases or installations of the United States, that will become a legitimate reason for the United States to have their deployment teams or special operations units that are being held in abeyance in some U.S. bases for such types of emergency. But that would be an overreaction. [end recording]

✓ **KMU Denounces Investigation of Employees**
*HK2404115789 Manila Manila Broadcasting
Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 24 Apr 89*

[Text] The 1 May Movement [KMU] denounced today the surveillance of some of its members who are civilian employees at the JUSMAG in Quezon City in light of the assassination of U.S. Army Colonel James Rowe. Leto Villar, KMU chairman for Metro Manila, described the move as yet another repressive measure and a baseless accusation against KMU members working at JUSMAG.

According to a Task Force Rowe report, a group of military and police investigators claimed that civilian employees of JUSMAG who are members of the KMU may have provided information to the NPA on the killing of the American soldier.

Meanwhile, Villar said that even if the workers may have grievances against the JUSMAG management, they were strictly limited to employee-employer dispute and that the American military has nothing to do with the dispute:

[Begin Villar recording] We do not resort to the use of arms as a matter of policy. While we admit that there are some individual members or workers—this is especially true during the Marcos' time—who really joined the underground, these were individual decisions. Please do not blame the killing of Col Rowe on the workers at JUSMAG. They are again blaming the workers for this incident to confuse the legitimate issues addressed to the JUSMAG administration and use it as an excuse to bust the union. [end recording]

✓ **Mutual Defense Board To Meet**
*HK2504051789 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 25 Apr 89 p 20*

[By Romy Mapile]

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) announced yesterday that a meeting of the RP [Republic of the Philippines-U.S. Mutual Defense Board] will be held in Fort Bonifacio, Makati, Metro Manila on May 5.

The meeting of the defense board comes on the heels of the assassination last Friday of U.S. Army Col. James Rowe, chief of the ground forces of the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group (JUSMAG) which has been owned by the rebel New People's Army (NPA).

DFA sources said that the NPA had apparently taken on a superpower when they killed an important U.S. officer who is directly involved in training members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Rowe, a veteran of the Vietnam war, was an expert in jungle warfare and a consultant on anti-communist insurgency assigned to the JUSMAG and was engaged in military exercises in Tanay, Rizal, at the time of the slaying.

The RP-U.S. mutual defense agreement as provided for in the Military Bases Agreement (MBA) states that "the parties separately and jointly by self-help and mutual aid will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack."

The same DFA sources suggested that the current recruitment and training of the new Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Units (CAFGU) may be subsidized under the approved RP-U.S. MBA through the provisions of the Economic Support Fund (ESF) with an allocation of \$200 million.

The military assistance group as defined in Article 7 of the RP-U.S. Military Assistance Agreement "shall consist of such members of United States military personnel as may be agreed upon by the governments of the Philippines and the United States of America."

✓ **Aquino Opposes Separate Probe**
*HK2504104789 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan
in Tagalog 1000 GMT 25 Apr 89*

[Text] President Aquino today expressed her opposition to a separate investigation by U.S. authorities into the killing of a U.S. military official in Quezon City recently. The president announced her position even as she stressed that she was still awaiting an official report on the role of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation in the ongoing investigations.

Although opposed to a separate probe to be conducted by the FBI, the president said that the FBI may be in the country to find ways to make American citizens safe here.

Sel Baisa, Philippine Broadcasting Service News, Malacanang.

✓ **Rowe's Role in CAFGU Explained**
*HK2504092189 Manila Manila Broadcasting
Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 25 Apr 89*

[Text] The slain U.S. Army Colonel James Rowe had nothing to do with the creation of the controversial Citizens Armed Force Geographical Unit. This was stressed by Defense Under Secretary Eduardo Ermita in response to published reports that Rowe was the author of the controversial CAFGU.

Ermita said that Rowe's role was indirect, adding that Rowe was in charge of military supplies to the Philippines extended under the annual U.S. military aid assistance plan.

Speaking in an interview, Ermita said:

[Begin recording in English in progress] ...is very much part of the force buildup of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for counterinsurgency. So it is not correct to say that somebody, much less a certain U.S. officer, Colonel Rowe, is the one responsible for the CAFGU because this is part of the overall buildup of the Armed Forces for counterinsurgency. [end recording]

At the same time, Ermita assured that the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation will not interfere in the Philippine authorities' ongoing investigations into the killing of Rowe. The defense under secretary said that the role of the FBI is limited to forensic examination of evidence gathered in connection with the Rowe killing. Earlier, various sectors warned the FBI against interference in local investigations.

In a related development, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos appealed to the Filipino people to support the Aquino government in its counterinsurgency campaign, notably in helping to solve the killing of JUSMAG Colonel James Rowe in Quezon City. At the same time, Ramos called on people critical of the Aquino administration, particularly those in the opposition, not to take advantage of the Rowe killing. According to Ramos, the incident should not cause panic among the people, but rather should spark unity to help the military and the government in its counterinsurgency campaign.

Ramos said that the violence committed by the communists was prompted by their defeats in military struggles in the country. [Ramos recording indistinct]

Moreover, Ramos said that the admission by communists led by Romulo Kintanar of responsibility for the killing of Col Rowe shows that the communists will not hesitate to commit terroristic acts which are contrary to the objectives of their alleged revolutionary war waged in the interest of the people.

On the participation of the FBI in the case, Ramos stressed that the FBI is a legitimate representative of the U.S. Embassy and is merely helping in the investigations. He repeated that the government will not tolerate foreigners taking over the investigation of the case.

At the same time, Ramos reiterated that Rowe was not the author of Cafgu in the country's counterinsurgency strategy, stressing that Cafgu is the product of years of experience of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] and of the Filipino people.

✓ Enrile Predicts More Killings

HK2404110789 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0900 GMT 24 Apr 89

[Text] A series of killings of U.S. military officers by communist rebels may take place following the ambush of Colonel James Rowe of JUSMAG. This was the reaction of Senator Juan Ponce Enrile. He added that Rowe's death may spark more killings by communist rebels of U.S. personnel in the Philippines.

At the same time, Enrile criticized the military's counterinsurgency strategy and claimed that no high-ranking U.S. military official was attacked in Manila when he was still secretary of defense. He added that the government can no longer contain violence committed by the communist rebels. He maintained that the killing was the result of a statement by the National Democratic Front which proclaimed that it would not stop killing U.S. military personnel, and attacking U.S. military installations as long as the president does not come out with a decision on the fate of the two U.S. military bases.

Here is a statement by Senator Juan Ponce Enrile:

[Begin Enrile recording in English] This is just the beginning. This is also a new dimension in the insurgency problem. It also suggests... it is a telling argument against the claim of the government that they are in control of the situation. In fact, never in our time was an American official of that rank killed in the city of Manila. I think we will be seeing more killings like this. But definitely the National Democratic Front and the Communist Party of the Philippines are not going to retreat. They have already made a declaration that if the Aquino government will not take a position on the military bases, they will escalate things. They are not making these statements without thinking about it. These are...they are very deliberate people. And for us to take them loosely or just ignore them, I think, is foolhardy. [end recording]

On the NDF's proposal for a political settlement on condition that the military bases treaty is terminated, Enrile said he is willing to meet with the NDF representatives for a political settlement as long as this would be beneficial to the country:

[Begin recording in English] [Enrile] Why should I oppose it if it can be settled politically, provided that the terms are favorable to the republic?

[Reporter's question indistinct]

[Enrile] Well, I am also willing to talk to them. We are waiting to talk to them.

[Reporter] While you were on vacation, did they not contact you since you were...

[Enrile, interrupting] I will not tell you whom I contacted abroad. [end recording]

✓ **U.S. Embassy Security Increased**

HK2504091789 Manila Manila Broadcasting
Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 25 Apr 89

[Text] Security men provided by the Western Police District to officials of the U.S. Embassy have been tripled following the killing of U.S. Army Colonel James Rowe.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Robert Barbers, contacts were made immediately with U.S. Embassy officials following the incident. Western Police District Superintendent Brigadier General Alfredo Lim ordered that the 12 policemen stationed in the embassy be increased threefold to ensure that no rebel attempts against U.S. officials will succeed:

[Begin Barbers recording in English] Even before the killing of Col Rowe, we had already posted our own men in the vicinity of the U.S. Embassy and after the killing, we tripled the security aside from our own monitoring of the movement of some people in the U.S. Embassy. [end recording]

✓ **Sison Calls Murder 'Just Punishment'**

HK2504134589 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1300 CMT 25 Apr 89

[Text] CPP founder Jose Maria Sison announced his support of a NDF proposal to establish an alliance with political parties with a view to dismantling U.S. bases.

In an interview in the Netherlands, Sison said this was the only way to achieve genuine national sovereignty. However, if the proposal is rejected by the Aquino regime, then the regime should be pressured by leftist groups into taking the nationalist road. However, Sison added that the government will still be given a chance to negotiate with them.

Meanwhile, he said that Rowe's killing was a just punishment for the continued U.S. intervention in the struggle between the Philippine Government and revolutionary forces; it is the duty of the NPA and of the entire Filipino nation to fight for national sovereignty.

✓ **Paper Comments on Rowe's Killing**

HK2204091189 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
GLOBE in English 22 Apr 89 p 4

[Editorial: "The Killing of Colonel Rowe"]

[Text] U.S. Colonel James Rowe, who died yesterday by assassination while on his way to his JUSMAG [Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group] office, is more likely than not another victim of the current travails in Philippine-American relations.

Colonel Rowe is by no means the first American soldier to be killed on Philippine soil, but the circumstances of his death and this particular time of acrimonious debate over the fate of the U.S. military base enshroud this tragedy with grave omens and import.

For the moment, the identity of his assassins is still unknown. While the Philippine military has been quick to tag the new People's Army [NPA] as the main suspect, neither the rebel army nor the National Democratic Front [NDF] has come out to claim the credit or the blame for the deed.

Yet the probability of an NDF or NPA rubout is strong. Just six days ago, in a statement offering a unilateral cease-fire in exchange for President Aquino's promise to close the U.S. military bases by 1991, the NDF also declared that it would start attacking U.S. military installations should she not heed its demand. And referring to the mauling of five Filipino workers at Clark Air Base in Pampanga, it declared as well that it would not sit by while its countrymen are harmed by American soldiers.

Earlier, last April 9, the NPA claimed responsibility for the bombing of a U.S. Navy communications station in Benguet. And in October 1987, it also took responsibility for the killing of two U.S. servicemen and one American-Filipino worker in Angeles City.

But whether this assassination is the work of the NPA or of another political group, the twin realities of RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. relations and Philippine politics stand squarely at the center of this tragedy. And there could be more assassinations or assassination attempts in the future.

U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt, in the aftermath of this tragedy, was quick to say that Colonel Rowe's death "will not alter in any way U.S. support for Philippine democracy," which presumably means support for President Aquino. That is reassuring to hear. But realistically, we must expect Washington to ponder deeply the implications of this tragedy and to take steps designed to ensure the safety of its nationals while serving in or visiting the Philippines.

The Aquino administration has condemned Colonel Rowe's killing with nearly all the heinous adjectives in the dictionary and has labeled it as yet another attempt to destabilize the government. While this is to be expected, it plainly must read the situation more thoughtfully. Granted that it cannot plausibly do more to protect American lives on Philippine soil, it certainly can do something to dispel the unease bugging RP-U.S. relations today.

If the Rowe assassination, the Benguet incident and the killing of U.S. servicemen are all of a piece, then it follows that the uncertainty surrounding the future of the U.S. bases lies at the root of the violence.

Ironically, President Aquino has helped to foster the climate of uncertainty with her open-options policy on the bases. For while there are indications that she's looking to Washington all the time for relief and support, her stonewalling of U.S. insistence on negotiations now has also kept alive the belief that she can be pressured to close down the bases.

The challenge to her leadership lies now in the pressures on the bases question that will be mounted from all sides of the political spectrum at home and from Washington as well. The Right will press her for the toughest measures against the insurgents and a declarative stand to keep the bases. The Left joined by nationalists will on the other hand declare that only by cutting cleanly the lease of the bases in 1991 will the violence cease. And the Americans will of course seize this opportunity to insist that the bases stay and on providing more support and advice to the counterinsurgency campaign in the Philippines.

In life, Colonel Rowe was a much decorated soldier and a five-year prisoner of war in Vietnam, and he will be mourned. But after the period of mourning and after the condemnation of the deed is done, his killing will be studied as a stab against Mrs Aquino's open-options policy.

Editorial Views Murder

✓ HK2504051389 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 25 Apr 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Rowe Killing Could Shut Off Foreign Aid"]

[Text] The murder of U.S. Army Col. James Nicholas Rowe in Quezon City last Friday by the New People's Army was a heinous terrorist act that has no place in a civilized society.

The NPA has justified the killing of Rowe as his punishment for being a "direct participant" in the Government's anti-insurgency campaign. Jusmag, the NPA believes, "is responsible for the over-all planning, supervision and implementation of U.S. military assistance and training" of the AFP for the "U.S.-designed total war" against the revolutionary forces.

The point the rebels have succeeded in making is that it is a force not only for the Philippine Government but also for the U.S. to contend with. The local communists have managed to include themselves in the agenda of American policy makers. Where before they were just a bothersome statistic, the NPA, with the murder of Rowe, has dramatized the extent and ferocity of the insurgency and the real and present danger it places on U.S. interests in this part of the world.

The NPA's latest caper has drawn from the U.S. government a more determined commitment to remain in the country and help the Government keep it safe for democracy.

Knowing the communists to be perceptive and analytical, it is difficult to imagine that they did not anticipate a hardening of the U.S. stance and its insistence on having a firmer hand in handling the insurgency. That is why we believe that this murder and their announced killing spree against strategic Americans and their installations in the country, was done to ensure a deeper American participation in the insurgency war.

The communist agenda, and their apparent capability to pursue it successfully, poses a real problem to the Government. At present the Aquino Administration is in the process of attracting more aid funds and foreign investments into the country. With the escalation of the war, the aid which should go into economic development might just find its way into the war effort.

As to foreign investments, we all know how sensitive investors are to changes in the political weather, especially when this involves violence against foreigners. We can thus expect those who have expressed interest in sinking money into the economy to shy away from the country, at least until they are assured of more stability and security.

Government has also been trying out with some success, its new counterinsurgency strategy which departs from the American formula of allout war. This is the strategy of "gradual constriction" whereby the AFP denies the rebels their mass base through a combination of socio-economic services and selective military action. With this new development, however, the AFP might be persuaded to return to conventional warfare and its attendant abuses against the civilian population.

An organized assault by the NPA on alleged foreign meddlers could have the effect of cutting off the channels of development which this Government has been so assiduously cultivating. If allowed to continue unabated, the NPA could effectively alienate those who would like to help. Ironically, though, the U.S. will remain with us. Its presence, though, will most likely be more overtly militaristic and therefore more menacing and more damaging to the country.

The war footing the NPA has taken against American advisers in the country should therefore be seen for what it is: an attempt to raise the stakes and escalate the conflict by luring the Americans into active and overt involvement in the insurgency war.

Should this happen, the insurgents will finally succeed in selling the line that many Filipinos have heretofore rejected: that Americans run the country, and President Aquino is an American puppet.

The Aquino and the U.S. Governments should not allow themselves to be drawn into the insurgents' grim agenda.

Type of Aquino Visit to U.S. Still in Question

HK2404085989 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 21 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said yesterday he did not know if the forthcoming trip of President Aquino to the United States will be a state visit or not.

He also said no formal arrangements have been made with the U.S. government at the level of the foreign affairs department following a telephone call by U.S. President George Bush extending the invitation to President Aquino a few days ago.

An official of the U.S. embassy earlier said President Aquino could not make a state visit to the U.S. based on an informal invitation.

Asked whether the President's second U.S. visit, scheduled sometime in the last quarter of the year, would be a state visit or a goodwill one, Manglapus said: "I don't know yet.

The foreign secretary explained that whenever foreign visits by heads of state are scheduled, informal talks are first held so that when a formal note is sent, it will not be rejected.

At the same time, Manglapus said he did not believe the Soviet government would feel slighted that while the President has postponed her trip to Moscow this year, she has announced a second visit to the United States.

"No, (the Soviets would not feel slighted), because the arrangement with Moscow was I would go first ... and prepare for the visit and now I am waiting for the Soviet government to give me the signal to go ahead with my visit to Moscow," he added.

Bases Talks To Begin Before End of Year

HK2504134389 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1300 GMT 25 Apr 89

[Text] President Aquino announced that talks on the future of U.S. military installations will begin before the end of the year. Speaking at a news conference, the president said it is necessary to start talks because Manila will have to give notice to Washington before September 1990 on whether U.S. bases may remain in the country after expiration of the bases lease in 1991. The Philippine Government will base its final decision on the talks.

The president also confirmed that she will visit the United States before the end of the year but did not say whether the visit will be related to talks on the U.S. bases.

In a related development, President Aquino emphatically pointed out that she would not allow any foreign country to intervene in the country's insurgency problem as she denied reports of a U.S. role in the country's counterinsurgency program:

[Begin Aquino recording in English] First of all, it is to safeguard the lives of all the people here in the Philippines, and what is necessary perhaps is to adopt such measures which will be helpful in preventing similar occurrences in the future. But in so far as our fight against the insurgents is concerned, this is purely a Philippine matter. The fact is that I have asked Red China and the Soviet Union not to interfere and, definitely, I am not going to ask the United States to interfere either. [end recording]

Congressman Alleges 'Disinterest' in Bases Issue

HK2504095789 Manila Manila Broadcasting
Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 25 Apr 89

[Text] Representative Bonifacio Gillego has assailed congressmen for their lack of interest in the bases issue, while the antibases coalition suspects that the administration has already reached a decision to retain the U.S. military bases. For the details, here is Andy Vital of Mobile 15:

[Begin recording] [Vital] Congressman Bonifacio Gillego criticized his colleagues in Congress due to their disinterest in the U.S. military bases. In the weekly Makati Forum, Gillego, member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, said that it is disappointing to know that only a few are concerned with the issue as the expiration to the Military Bases Agreement is nearing. He said that there has been a proposal in Congress for the representatives to help in a nationwide information campaign to inform people of the details of the military bases, but this seemed to have been forgotten. There was also a proposal to ban nuclear weapons from the country, but this too, had not been presented in the plenary sessions for action following an agreement signed in Washington granting additional compensation for the U.S. bases. Gillego said that those who are not concerned about the bases have one thing in mind: they are afraid of the coming of the Russians.

[Gillego in English] It is very disheartening that so important an issue like the bases, which affects not only our national security but our very survival, has not elicited much concern from the House of Representatives, outside, perhaps, of a privilege speech where the most typical attitude of conservatism was expressed by a congressman who feared riding on the crest of the anticommunist feeling that if the Americans get out, the Russians will come in. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Attorney Romeo Capulong, representative of the Anti-Bases Coalition, said that it is obvious the government has decided to retain the U.S. military bases. Capulong expressed concern that most of those

who were not sure whether to support or oppose the retention of the military bases here are likely to be influenced by the government's decision:

[Begin Capulong recording] We are hoping that President Aquino will stand firm on what she had agreed with the convenors group, that she is opposed to the retention of the military bases. But the sad truth about the matter is that she already has her own personal stand, if not a promise, to retain the military bases. I think she might even use the full force of the country to uphold her position. [end recording]

Takeshita Resignation May Delay Aid Plan

HK2504061789 Hong Kong AFP in English 0509 GMT 25 Apr 89

[Text] Manila, April 25 (AFP)—Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said that Tuesday's resignation of Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita could delay work on a multi billion-dollar aid plan for the Philippines.

Mr Manglapus said that a meeting of donors to pledge support for the plan, scheduled to be held in Tokyo before June, would now "have to await the election of another prime minister." The plan seeks to revive the Philippine economy and has been endorsed by Mr Takeshita and U.S. President George Bush.

The foreign secretary praised Mr Takeshita for visiting Manila in December 1987 to express support for the then embattled government of President Corazon Aquino by attending the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit.

"We appreciate Prime Minister Takeshita's personal commitment to the (aid) plan, his own courageous heart in coming here last December of 87 to help us strengthen our stability at that time," Mr Manglapus said.

Mrs Aquino was nearly toppled by a coup attempt four months before the summit, which was protected by extreme security measures amid fears of a Japanese Red Army attack. The attendance of Mr Takeshita and other leaders was seen then as a crucial boost for the image of Mrs Aquino here and abroad.

Manila is to be the last stop in Mr Takeshita's visit next week to ASEAN countries which officially remains on despite the resignation.

Continuity in Diplomacy Expected

HK2504095589 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 25 Apr 89

[Text] There will be no change in the Japanese Government's commitment to help the Philippines through the Multilateral Aid Initiative [MAI] despite the resignation of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, after the Diet's approval of the national budget next month.

Speaking at a news conference held in his office, Foreign Affairs Secretary Manglapus announced that Takeshita will push through with his plans to visit the Philippines and other ASEAN countries. Takeshita is expected to visit the country from 6 to 7 May.

Manglapus said that even if Takeshita resigns as prime minister of Japan, there will be no change in the Japanese Government's promise to help in the country's economic recovery program:

[Begin Manglapus recording in English] Today, we received a call from Tokyo reporting that the Minister of Foreign Affairs has invited the ambassadors of ASEAN countries to a meeting in the ministry and has been told the following: Prime Minister Takeshita has announced his intention to resign after the approval of the budget. This is expected... [changes thought] The process of approval is expected to last for a while. Prime Minister Takeshita will not cancel his trips to the Philippines and to other parts of Southeast Asia. Therefore, the plans for his coming are still on.

Prime Minister Takeshita is... [changes thought] when he comes, will still be dealing with questions of interest to ASEAN as well as to the Philippines. And although this was not part of the minister's answer, I am personally of the opinion that when he comes, we shall as expected, talk about Philippines-Japanese economic relations, including the so-called MAI. The announcement also said that there is to be a continuity of diplomacy—I believe that was the word used, and therefore, we would like to expect that there will be no changes in the direction of Japanese economic diplomacy in Southeast Asia.

The feeling is that Mr Takeshita remains in a position of strength within his country. His resignation has nothing to do with the conduct of foreign policy, as far as I can see. Therefore I am also optimistic that there will be continuity. [end recording]

ASEAN Military Cooperation Discussed

HK2204033989 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 21 Apr 89

[Text] The government expressed concerns over build-ups in the Chinese Navy and in the Soviet military in Vietnam. Sources said it was not keen on military cooperation in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The foreign department said the Chinese naval buildup and the presence of Soviet facilities in Vietnam have a bearing on ASEAN's objective to create a zone of peace, freedom, and neutrality in the region. It said the department is of the view that there are no bright prospects for ASEAN military cooperation because the Association was established primarily for social, economic, and cultural cooperation. ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

The foreign department said no military cooperation currently exists between Manila and other ASEAN members. The Philippines hosts Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base.

Manglapus Comments on Sabah Claims Issue

HK2404090389 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 21 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] Malaysia cannot be asked to settle the proprietary claims of the heirs of the Sultan of Sulu simultaneously with the dropping of Philippine sovereignty claims to Sabah because the country is not in a "commanding position" on the Sabah issue, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said yesterday.

Manglapus said the simultaneous moves could be the ideal solution to the Sabah issue between the two countries only "if we were in a commanding position on this case. But then, we are not in possession of Sabah; we are the ones making the claim."

As this developed, Malaysian envoy Eman Haniff stressed that "our position is very clear: drop the claim first then we will talk with you (the heirs)." He, however, denied any link between the dropping of the claim and the settlement of the heirs' proprietary rights, which he said Malaysia has honored since the Makaski judgement in 1939.

He, however, refused to comment on the \$1 billion lump sum the heirs are asking as compensation for relinquishing their rights to the territory.

Earlier, a confidential telex sent by former ambassador to Malaysia and now envoy to China Pablo Suarez to Manglapus said Malaysian Prime Minister Mohammad Mahathir maintains "a hardline stance" that the sovereignty claims be dropped first before settling the heirs' claim.

The Malaysian envoy said that while President Aquino's announcement to drop the Sabah claim was welcome, "we would like to have results."

He pointed out that the President's announcement was the third made by her Government.

Tourism Cooperation Agreement Signed With PRC

HK2204052789 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0500 GMT 22 Apr 89

[Text] A tourism cooperation agreement has been concluded between the PRC and the Philippines with a view to professionalizing and promoting the tourism industries of the two countries.

The agreement took effect upon signing by Narzalina Lim, acting Tourism Secretary and concurrently under secretary of tourism planning, development and coordination at the Department of Tourism, and Liu Yu, chairman of the National Tourism Administration of China.

Press Secretary's Resignation Said 'Bombshell'

HK2404084789 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 24 Apr 89 pp 1, 8

[By Joel Palacios]

[Text] Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno, who served as a willing target for media attacks the past three years, last Friday decided to fight back and dropped a bombshell on President Aquino and Malacanang reporters.

But his surprise announcement to quit the Cabinet seems to have triggered a lot of questions on the stability of the Aquino administration, rather than just provoke a debate on its media policy, which he had been promoting all these years.

An uneasy silence seems to have pervaded the high-ceilinged corridors and wood-paneled rooms in the Palace after the announcement.

"This rash of resignations in the Cabinet is unsettling, to say the least. It does not project a stable government, especially a government that wants to win the confidence of the people," a Malacanang official, who asked not to be named, said.

"It is no longer just a question of whether the President wants to talk to reporters or not. I think it is now a question of whether she can still project a solid leadership that she wants people to believe is existing," the official said.

Benigno, a veteran journalist who was tapped for the press secretary's post shortly after Ms. Aquino came to power in 1986, resigned following a controversy over media coverage of presidential activities.

Ms. Aquino accepted the resignation and said she would name an acting press secretary as soon as the resignation takes effect on May 16.

"One bears the burden of the Office of the Press Secretary as one bears a cross. And it is a cross that gets heavier with the passage of time," Benigno said.

At least 10 Cabinet members have quit since 1986. Only five of the original members remained of the 23 that Ms. Aquino named to the Cabinet after she became president.

The real victims in the Cabinet turnover are the employees who are afraid they might lose their jobs when the new press secretary takes over.

When a new department head is appointed, it usually results in a revamp or realignment of personnel, one long-time employee said.

At the Office of the Press Secretary [OPS], the offices to be affected by the turnover are the Bureau of Broadcast Services, Bureau of Communications Services, National Printing Office, News and Information Bureau and Philippine Information Agency.

Right in Malacanang itself is the high-budget Presidential Broadcast Staff. The OPS also supervises the government owned People's Television Four and a string of radio stations nationwide.

Benigno is the fourth press spokesman of Ms. Aquino; he has held the post for the longest period. Other spokesmen included Rene Saguisag, who is now a senator, speechwriter Teodoro Locsin Jr., and Alice Villadolid.

Ms. Aquino is a victim herself of Benigno's resignation because it appears that she cannot hold on to her press secretaries.

"But she does not care, it seems," one Malacanang reporter said. "Because of her low regard for the press and its importance, the job of the press secretary has been made more difficult."

A senior Malacanang official, speaking on condition that he remained anonymous, said Ms. Aquino had a "traumatic experience" with the press, which has strained her relations with reporters.

He recalled an interview she had with a foreign newspaper in 1986 which was a disaster because she was not able to give satisfactory answers to the questions.

"What can you expect from a housewife with no experience in government? You cannot expect her to give satisfactory answers on foreign policy, national defense and other complicated issues," the official said.

Press office sources said Benigno had tried to forge a media policy that would allow Ms. Aquino to hold regular question-and-answer sessions with reporters, but failed.

Often he had been reduced to parroting presidential announcements and evaded difficult questions by saying, "I am not supposed to think, I just report what the president says."

Says one OPS employee, "I can still remember what the President said a few months ago, which might help explain the situation."

"History will judge me for what I did for the people and not for what I did to the media," she quoted Ms. Aquino as saying.

Aquino Submits Wage Increase Bills to Congress
HK2504091989 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 25 Apr 89

[Text] President Corazon Aquino certified as urgent, the enactment of two administrative bills related to wage increases. In a letter sent by the president to Speaker Ramon Mitra of the House of Representatives, the president appealed for the speedy approval of an act raising the minimum wage of workers and employees in the private sector all over the country. A second act seeks the rationalization of wage fixing, creation of a national wage and productivity commission, an area wage and productivity force, as well as appropriation of funds for these agencies.

Based on the president's recommendation, wages in Metro Manila will go up by P [pesos] 15, by P6 in the provinces, and P10 in selected cities all over the country, including Cagayan de Oro, Metropolitan Cebu, Mandanae, Lapu Lapu, Davao and Iloilo. Also receiving P10 wage hikes are the provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal.

Here is a statement by the president:

[Begin recording in English] [Aquino] I just signed a letter addressed to the speaker certifying as urgent the two bills prepared by the Department of Labor.

[Reporter] Is P15 enough?

[Aquino] We have also taken into consideration some of the other cities like Davao, Cagayan de Oro and Cebu which probably will need a higher wage increase. Secretary Drilon has proposed a P10 minimum wage increase for cities such as the ones I mentioned. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Aquino Pledges Government Support to Batanes
HK2404061789 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 24 Apr 89

[Text] The government has pledged its full support for the speedy progress of Batanes Province. The pledge was made by President Aquino before officials from various sectors of government after her visit to the province. Sel Baisa has the full report:

[Begin recording] The president's program began with her turning on a switch at 0830 today, signifying the electrification of the province. In her remarks, Mrs. Aquino said that repairs to the port of Basco, the capital of Batanes, would be made soon to help the fishing industry in the province. The president also handed out livelihood certificates to many of the province's residents. Her visit was made in line with her pledge to bring the government closer to the people in the country's remote areas. [end recording]

Aquino Urged To Revive Think-Tank Group
HK2204191789 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 22 Apr 89 pp 1, 8

[“Comment” column by Fermin D. Adriano: “A Need to Revive Presidential Think Tank”]

[Text] The Inertia currently afflicting the Aquino Administration should be treated as a result of the change in the composition of the President's closest advisers, from one dominated by technocrats to one ruled by politicians.

It would be recalled that before and immediately after her ascendance to power, a Convenor Group, composed of probably the best intellectuals from Opposition, advised the President in terms of the political strategy and tactics that she was going to employ against Marcos and his supporters. Unfortunately, this group had to disband when most of its members were recruited to the government or went back to their respective jobs after the Edsa [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] Revolution.

An attempt to revive such a think-tank surfaced during the first year of the government with the “formation” of a loose aggrupation of individuals coyly referred to as the “Council of Trent.” However, this body dissipated when the political economy during the time could not permit a rift within the ranks of the government.

The political stability of the Administration then was being challenged by mutinous Marcos loyalists and soldiers. The culminating point came in August 1987 when Gregorio Honasan staged the most daring uprising against the government. A few months later, Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, a close friend of Honasan, was sacked by Mrs. Aquino.

It was during this time frame when members of the “Council of Trent” got embroiled in a controversy against the former executive secretary, Joker Arroyo. Knowing that she could not afford such a dissension within her Cabinet at a time when the survival of the government is at stake, Mrs. Aquino sacked the two leading figures in this feud, namely, Arroyo and Jaime Ongpin.

The two were replaced by individuals known for being good team players though handicapped by their non-aggressive, low keyed stance vis-a-vis critical issues confronting the Executive Department. Thus, one hears complaints by political observers that the Executive Secretary does not properly project the Office of the President, and the Finance Secretary is too accommodating to the wishes of the IMF.

The problem is confounded by the President's type of governance/management itself. Politically unprepared for the job, she does not have a fixed position on certain issues, and often times, uses her mother instinct in rendering a decision. Although having an open mind has

its merits, it also has its drawbacks. Foremost of which is the tendency of one to change his/her decision depending on the last person that one talked with or the extent of one's trust to the person rendering advice. In this formulation, logic or reason comes second in the pecking order.

The President's style of governance is also reflected in the manner by which she assigns tasks to her Cabinet members. Like a mother who trusts her children, she gives them a free hand in running the affairs of their departments only to intervene when a crisis breaks out. This happened in the case of the LOI [letter of intent] where Central Bank Gov. Jose Fernandez and Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme did not even inform the other Cabinet members about the details of the negotiations that they were undertaking with the IMF despite the all-embracing effect of the outcome of that negotiations.

Similarly, this apparent lack of consultation also emerged in the recent rice problem. Conflicting signals were emanating from the various officials of the Department of Agriculture as to the reasons for the rice shortage. Again, Mrs. Aquino had to step into the picture to bail them out.

Mrs. Aquino's confidence in her people is also shown by her readiness to forgive them when they committed snafus or acts of indiscretion during the process of discharging their functions. Once they explained their side, she immediately accepts it at its face value without really looking deeper into the problem. The trouble is that it seems that she is slow in realizing that people around her might not necessarily have the same sincerity and high moral standards that she possesses. On several occasions, she was already disappointed by some of her people but she persisted in giving them a second (and even a third) chance.

The departure of the technocrats in the Government left a vacuum which has all too willingly been occupied by politicians. With a resurgent Congress, the latter's role in influencing the President is expected to increase.

The result, however, is a disaster as no new policy initiatives are emanating from the Palace. This is because by virtue of being politicians (and worse, conservative at that), many of them could not transcend the hallows of their parochial interest.

Their advice is usually laden with hidden agenda, determined by their overarching preoccupation for the electoral battle in 1992. If ever the social justice issue is cited, it is made for the sake of convenience; that is, for the sake of bolstering their political fortune.

If Mrs. Aquino is serious in gaining the upper hand on the events unfolding in our midst, it is imperative that she revives that think-tank group in Malacanang again.

More than ever, she has to regain the initiative again given the facts that her popularity is currently at its lowest point, and the likelihood of protests this summer against her Government mainly because of the rise in the prices of basic commodities.

The Government can now afford to have dissension, though in a controlled fashion, within its ranks considering the political stability it is now enjoying.

With barely 2 1/2 years before her term expires, it is the most opportune time for the President to make a move that will assure her the position of being the greatest statesperson this country has ever known.

During the first three years of Marcos' martial law, when the technocrats were lording it over in Malacanang, many members of the middle and upper middle class of this country had been impressed by the changes being instituted by the martial law administration. With the sacking of these technocrats (led by Alejandro Melchor) in 1975, the regime began to sputter like an engine losing its power.

It lost its innovativeness, became more conservative, and increasingly resorted to violence to maintain its rule. At the same time that the technocrats were leaving, a new breed of individuals were filling up the places they vacated. They were composed of politicians, relatives and cronies of the dictator.

At its helm was Imelda Marcos, closely followed by Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, Roberto Benedicto, Danding Cojuangco, etc.

We know what they did to our country. I just hope that President Aquino also learned from this tragic experience.

✓ **Church Groups Seek CAFGU's Abolition**
HK2404055189 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 24 Apr 89 pp 1, 8

[Text] Catholic and Protestant groups yesterday demanded the disbanding of the newly-organized Civilian Armed Force Geographical Units (CAFGUS) which they blamed for a long list of human rights violations against nuns, priests, pastors and lay workers in the countryside.

"We strongly reject the formation of CAFGU's. The CAFGU's are an instrument of death, not life," said the statement signed by 12 organizations, such as the Promotion for Church People's Rights (PCPR), Rural Missionaries of the Philippines and the Justice and Peace Desks of the Redemptorist Order and the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP).

The statement came after another CAFGU member shot and killed Zenaido Roillo, 48, a UCCP pastor, in Pitogo, Zamboanga del Sur last Wednesday.

A week earlier, Fr. Dionisio Malalay and a lay worker in Tabina town in Zamboanga del Sur were also killed by armed men believed to be either CAFGU members or PC [Philippine Constabulary] soldiers.

Fr. Benjamin Alforque, PCPR spokesman, said the formation of the CAFGU is part of the "US-sponsored low intensity conflict designed to suppress progressive liberation movements" in Third World countries.

The CAFGU was organized to replace the Civilian Home Defense Force which was disbanded because of human rights abuses.

Alforque said there is not much difference between the two civilian militias.

Alforque, who is also head of the Justice and Peace Desk of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP), said there are seven other documented cases of rights violations against Church people the past three months.

The cases include the killing of UCCP Pastor Amando Anosa in Samar on Feb. 25, the arrest and detention of Sr. Salve Maria Salas and six lay workers in Bohol on Feb 22, and the harassment of missionaries who have been tagged as communist sympathizers.

Another case involved the bombing by vigilantes of the seminar house of the San Francisco parish in Agusan del Sur on March 21. Three Church workers were injured.

The statement also denounced "the continued attempt by the military to dominate our national life," adding that the formation of the CAFGU further tightens the so-called iron grip of the Armed Forces on civilian domain.

Instead of serving as a peace-keeping force, the CAFGUS "will sow hatred, fear and division among our people," the statement said.

It added millions of pesos allotted for the CAFGU will further strain the government's budget.

Last year, Alforque said the PCPR recorded 24 cases of rights violations against church people including the beheading of a lay worker in Kabankalan, Negros Occidental, the massacre of a lay worker's family in Dinalungan, Aurora province, the strafing of a number of convents, the killing of Fr. Karl Schmidt in Bilaan, South Cotabato, and two UCCP deacons, also in South Cotabato, and the attempt on the life of Fr. Mike Haelterman in Tabuk, Kalinga-Apayao.

✓ **Ramos Sends CAFGU Group to Davao Oriental**
*HK2504061189 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
GLOBE in English 25 Apr 89 p 6*

[By correspondent Noemi Alcala]

[Text] A total of 186 graduates of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit or CAFGU will soon be deployed to Davao Oriental to replace the 45,000 Civilian Home Defense Force members participating in the anti-insurgency campaign.

Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, who attended the new CAFGU members' graduation recently at Mati airport in Davao Oriental said the new group will serve as the backbone of the territorial force of the government's "total approach strategy."

Ramos said his insistence on the full recognition of the CAFGU is based on the principle that "the best form of community defense is that which comes from the community itself."

He said it is best for a community to be defended by fighters who come from the same neighborhood. If they are fighting for their own, they will surely be better fighters, he said.

The province has long been requesting that an Army battalion be deployed there in the wake of rebel atrocities, including the burning of buses that prompted major transport firms to cease operating.

✓ **Ramos Gives Assessment of Insurgency Problem**
*HK2404052589 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 24 Apr 89 pp 1, 22*

[By Roy C. Sinfuego]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos described the insurgency problem as a symptom of dissatisfaction among the people due to various conditions that must be corrected.

Ramos assessed the insurgency problem confronting the nation for the last two decades during a meeting of the Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) conference-workshop last Friday and Saturday in Davao City.

Ramos said that "the menace in the country today is brought about by conditions such as poverty, ignorance, injustice, and graft and corruption" that must be immediately corrected.

Earlier, Ramos had said corruption in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) was a "partial factor" in the AFP revamp.

He stressed that the root causes of rebellion must be attacked, "and these are what we are now attacking through social development programs being worked out on the Regional Development Council level and also the peace and order programs that we are working out on our level in the RPOC."

He said the elimination of the root causes of insurgency is not through military solution alone, saying that the problems are not military in nature because they are social, political, and economic.

Ramos urged local officials, the military, the police, and the citizenry to work together in uprooting the causes of rebellion and other social factors that breed dissatisfaction among the people, especially in the countryside.

In Maguindanao Province, Ramos said one of the priorities of President Aquino for the people in remote areas is the building of more public school buildings.

He said President Aquino has ordered the construction of 1,000 two-classroom public school buildings in remote communities to bring education closer to the people.

Ramos said AFP engineers under Col. Emilio Estrella, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), are set to construct initially 100 two-classroom school buildings funded with P [peso] 18 million from the Office of the President's social amelioration fund.

He said that the Department of National Defense (DND) is set to carry out several important measures to keep the DND a result-oriented government office.

✓ **Ramos Presses for Military Offensive**
*HK2404051989 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 24 Apr 89 p 19*

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos urged government troops in the countryside to move into known communist strongholds and make their presence felt in those domains to pressure the enemies "and then deliver the knockout blow when the rebels are already isolated, weak, and vulnerable."

In his visit to various military camps in Davao Province last Friday, Ramos said that "it is this year, 1989, that we really have to start going on the general offensive against the enemies of the state since military preparations are more or less complete."

He called on the military to fulfill the dreams and aspirations of the people in experiencing total peace and stability in the shortest possible time, saying that "our people can no longer wait too long for the progress and security the rebels have denied them over the years."

"The communists," Ramos said, "are actually feeling the pressures from all sides, not only from the military side but also from the civilian side in terms of infrastructures and other social development."

"If we can pursue the effective implementation of the government's 'total approach strategy' and we continue to apply pressure, the enemies will be forced to go on the run," Ramos added.

The defense chief asked the soldiers to assist and support the government in its campaign to boost the socio-economic conditions of the people, noting that men in uniform must not only battle insurgents but also do their part in nation-building.

"Let us make sure that whatever gains we have already achieved be preserved for the good of the people," he said.

Meanwhile, in a command briefing with top military officials of Regional Command 11, Ramos was informed that among the major threats in Southern Mindanao, communism remains to be the military's main concern despite the success of the "total approach strategy."

Brig. Gen. Mariano Baccay, PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary Integrated National Police] Recom 11 chief, reported that the New People's Army (NPA) strength in the region increased by 5.14 percent compared to last month's figure.

Baccay said estimates place the communist strength in Region 11 at 3,133 regulars, 3,850 active support elements and 10,061 mass base force. He said firearms are estimated at 1,653, an increase by 1.87 percent compared to last month's figure.

On the affected barangays, the Recom 11 chief said 657 or 38.17 percent of the 1,722 barangays in the region remains affected by the NPA of which 184 are classified as influenced and 473 infiltrated. He added that 833 are threatened.

✓ **Cebu Groups Assail NDF's Cease-Fire Offer**
HK2404090589 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 21 Apr 89 p 13

[Text] Two Cebu organizations assailed yesterday as "the roar of a dying lion" the National Democratic Front's [NDF] offer of a unilateral ceasefire if the government would abrogate the Military Bases Agreement (MBA).

The League of Concerned Citizens (LCC) and the People's Alliance against Communism (PAAC) voiced their sentiment against the NDF bid even as they hailed President Aquino for rejecting it.

Cerge Remonde, national chairman of the LCC, branded the NDF call a "ploy" to weaken the Aquino government while the local communists try to resuscitate their movement.

"Obviously the local communist movement is reeling from its recent setbacks and needs a breathing spell to regroup," Remonde said.

He said that perhaps this is the confirmation that the U.S. presence in the country is one of the major stumbling blocks to communist takeover. Thus the dismantling of the bases is high on their agenda.

Doming Alcorido, president of PAAC, said the NDF was never sincere in terminating its uprising.

"The NDF realize they have lost on the bases issue because of popular support for the retention of these facilities. Now, they are trying another tactic to attain their objective," Alcorido noted.

✓ **PC-INP Revamp 'Denounced' as Discriminatory**
HK2404091189 Quezon City MALAYA in English
21 Apr 89 pp 1, 2

[By Mila Velasquez]

[Text] Zamboanga City—Muslim members of the Constabulary have threatened to create trouble if they are transferred from the Regional Command [Recom] 9 based in Cawacawa here.

The more than 100 affected Muslims denounced as discriminatory and unfair the move by Col. Roger Deinla, Recom 9 chief, to revamp the PC [Philippine Constabulary]-Integrated National Police [INP] force in this city.

They said Christian soldiers were not affected by the revamp.

Early this week, the heavily armed soldiers threatened to stage a demonstration in front of the Recom 9 headquarters to protest Deinla's order. The order was to take effect last March 21.

An all-Muslim militant organization calling itself the Bangsa Moro Consultative Council (BMCC) said its members will assassinate top government officials for the injustices committed against Muslim soldiers.

Included in the death list are Rep. Maria Clara Lobregat of the lone district of Zamboanga, City mayor Vitaliano Agan, Councilor Jaime Cabato and some mediamen.

The council said the revamp shows that the local military leadership does not trust the Muslim soldiers.

The protesters said they are capable of creating troubles worse than the Batalla hostage incident last January. Brig. Gen. Eduardo Batalla, regional chief, and his chief of staff, Col. Romeo Abendan, were taken hostage and killed by a group of Muslim policemen led by Pat. Rizal Alih.

Deinla, however, stood firm on his decision to transfer the constables. "This was the clamor of the people, to eliminate the scalawags in the organization," he said.

Deinla warned that if the constables employ [or] use force, "then we have no alternative but to use force and fight them."

Col. Samuel Tomas, Recom 9 chief of staff, disputed the claim of the BMCC that the revamp was discriminatory. He said that of the six provincial commands in Western Mindanao, four are led by Muslim officers and of the 22 company commanders, 18 are led by Muslims.

He said 54 percent of the soldiers in Recom 9 are Muslims.

Thailand

Chatchai Comments on Hun Sen Meeting Proposal *BK2504091589 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai* *0530 GMT 25 Apr 89*

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Asked by reporters about a report that Hun Sen, leader of the Heng Samrin regime in Cambodia, has requested a meeting with him before Thailand holds consultations with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the prime minister [General Chatchai Chunhawan], said he will first have to consult with the foreign minister [Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila]. He declined to confirm whether he will meet with Hun Sen or not.

Regarding a report saying that Hun Sen has stated that elections will be held [in Cambodia] in November after the withdrawal of [Vietnamese] troops, the prime minister said he is pleased to hear this news.

Chatchai, Sitthi To Consult

BK2504101189 Bangkok THE NATION in English
25 Apr 89 Afternoon Edition p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan said this morning he will consult Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila over Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen's requests for talks with him during his (Hun Sen's) stops in Bangkok on the way to and from Jakarta early next month.

The premier was referring to Hun Sen's public statement that he wanted to brief the Thai premier on what he would discuss with exiled Khmer resistance leader

Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Jakarta. Hun Sen also stated that after the Khmer meeting, he would like to see General Chatchai again to brief him on the outcome.

Hun Sen said he requested the first round of meetings to take place on May 1.

Gen Chatchai's son and personal adviser, Kraisak Chunhawan said yesterday he personally thought that the Thai premier should see Hun Sen after the Jakarta meeting, arranged for the rival Khmer leaders to resolve their internal conflict of power sharing and international mechanism to control the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. [sentence as published]

But Gen Chatchai said, "I cannot as yet make any commitment because I have to ask ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi Sawetsila whether I should allow Hun Sen to meet me."

The foreign minister told reporters yesterday he had not given serious thought to Hun Sen's request.

Hun Sen's last visit to Thailand in January on Gen Chatchai's initiative sparked an uproar from Khmer resistance leaders, particularly Prince Sihanouk, who called off his plan to visit Jakarta for Khmer peace negotiations in February in protest against what he termed Hun Sen's hardening position towards the resistance force.

Sihanouk charged that Thailand's direct talks with Hun Sen implied recognition of the Vietnam-installed regime and therefore, boosted the regime's bargaining position vis-a-vis the UN-recognized Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK) which the prince heads.

Sihanouk is due to fly here Friday for a two-day stopover which will include talks with Gen Chatchai and Sitthi before he continues his trip to Jakarta for a meeting with Hun Sen. After the Jakarta talk, the prince will return to Bangkok on May 4 and is expected to brief Thai leaders on the outcome of the Jakarta talk. The prince apparently is now pessimistic that the Jakarta talk would provide any breakthrough on the Kampuchean conflict. In a statement released yesterday from Beijing, where he is living in exile, the prince said he would meet with Hun Sen but would not talk to him.

Official Says Meeting 'Acceptable'

BK2504094589 Bangkok THE NATION in English
25 Apr 89 Afternoon Edition p 1

[Text] A top national security official said this morning Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen's request for meetings with Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan during his forthcoming stop-overs here are "acceptable".

But Suwit Sutthanukun, the National Security Council secretary general, told THE NATION in Cha-am that Thai leaders should not meet Hun Sen if the latter asked

specifically to visit Thailand for negotiations on the Kampuchean problem. "If Hun Sen doesn't want to talk about Kampuchea I don't think it would hurt to meet him because he will be stopping here on his way to and from Jakarta," Suwit said.

He said it was now too early to respond to Hun Sen's proposal that Bangkok hosts a meeting of the four warring Khmer factions after the Jakarta meeting between Hun Sen and Khmer resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Suwit said he had no objection in principle to the Thai MPs' proposal for the establishment of a Thai-Kampuchean Friendship Association, but added the matter needed the right timing in order for permission to be granted.

Forthcoming Sihanouk-Hun Sen Talks Viewed

*BK2304124089 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai
21 Apr 89 p 9*

[Article from the "Prachachun Bus Stop" column by Suthi Suthathan: "Sihanouk to Meet Hun Sen"]

[Text] "The world has accused me of not wanting peace for Cambodia.... Therefore, I must meet Hun Sen to prove to the world that I have not behaved improperly."

That message is in Prince Norodom Sihanouk's letter, dated 5 April and published by AP on 14 April. Sihanouk indicated that he would meet Hun Sen in Jakarta early in May.

One reason for Sihanouk being accused of "not wanting peace for Cambodia" could be because, concurrently with the Thai prime minister's visit to Beijing, Sihanouk announced the setting up of a "defense council" as well as a plan to "create a situation similar to that in Afghanistan" for Cambodia after the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops.

The issue was even raised by China's veteran statesman, Deng Xiaoping, during his meeting with Thai Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan.

Another reason for Prince Norodom Sihanouk not wanting to be accused of "not wanting peace for Cambodia" must come from the 5 April joint declaration of the three Indochinese countries—Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia—announcing the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia before September and the readiness of the Phnom Penh Government to "dismantle" the old structure of state power making way for a new state power with Prince Sihanouk as head.

Western diplomats believed this is the reason which has "pressured" Prince Sihanouk and noncommunist resistance groups to agree to talks with Prime Minister Hun Sen of Phnom Penh, "freely" without the Khmer Rouge, in Jakarta early next month.

A diplomat told REUTER: No matter whether there is an agreement or not, the Khmer Rouge will go on fighting. The Khmer Rouge will continue fighting no matter what the new government setup will be like.

The same diplomat added that Prince Sihanouk might cooperate with the Phnom Penh Regime because the latter is ready to compromise with him only if Sihanouk agrees to abandon the Khmer Rouge.

The REUTER report said that if there is a full response from Phnom Penh, Sihanouk might reach agreements directly with the Phnom Penh Regime.

From this perspective, Prince Sihanouk must be considered a person who deserves sympathy, based on the developments since the sixties, because:

1. The United States, which declared support for Prince Sihanouk as head of the new Cambodian coalition government, has an "unaccounted blood debt" to Prince Sihanouk for support it gave to General Lon Nol who toppled Sihanouk during his trip to the USSR and China in 1970.

2. China, which is the most important refuge for Sihanouk and has been trying to persuade him to cooperate with the Khmer Rouge, also owes a "blood debt" to Sihanouk for its past support for the Khmer Rouge which was responsible for the execution of several members of the Cambodian royal family after the Khmer Rouge victory in 1975.

3. On the other hand, Vietnam, which Sihanouk has blamed for "aggression against Cambodia," is the country which is "indebted" to Prince Sihanouk who once supported the Viet Cong's fight against the United States by allowing the Viet Cong to set up bases in the "Parrot's Beak" which is a little over 100 kilometers from Saigon.

4. Hun Sen, who was called "Vietnam's puppet" by Prince Sihanouk, used to be in the group of Hun Nam, a Khmer Rouge leader who welcomed Prince Sihanouk at his camp when the latter paid a visit to him in the past.

Because the group of Hun Nam was close to Prince Sihanouk, it became the target of persecution by the Pol Pot clique. Hun Sen, however, held no "personal grudge" against Prince Sihanouk.

The Hun Sen Regime usurped power from the Pol Pot clique and not from the government of Prince Sihanouk, which was toppled by the U.S.-backed government of Gen Lon Nol.

It is therefore believed that Prince Sihanouk will be able to communicate with Hun Sen, who was once in the group of Hun Nam, frankly and freely without any ill feelings.

It might be because of this that Prince Sihanouk has reportedly requested from Jakarta a meeting of 6 days instead of 3 days with Hun Sen, that is from 30 April to 5 May. His request was approved by President Suharto in a telex message. President Suharto welcomed the prince's request and even expressed readiness to provide all facilities for him.

**List of Newly Appointed, Former Senators Issued
BK2304014489 Bangkok THE NATION in English
23 Apr 89 pp 6-7**

[List of newly appointed and newly replaced members of the Thai Senate—number sign (#) signifies reappointed senator]

[Text] Thirty-six of the new senators are from the military, including four pensioned officers.

#ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kan Phimanthip, chief of the Air Staff;
#ACM Kaset Rotchananin, deputy supreme commander;
Major General Chamkat Kalanthakasuwan, commander of the 4th Infantry Division;
Lieutenant General Chalorn Vitsamon, a pensioned officer (with connection to the Ratsadon Party);
Lt Gen Chatchom Kanlong, assistant Army chief-of-staff;
Maj Gen Chettha Thanacharo, commander of the 5th Infantry Division;
Vice Admiral Choetsak Sukkhakitbamrung, assistant Navy chief-of-staff (intelligence);
Lt Gen Thawon Rattanawadi, assistant Army chief-of-staff (intelligence);
Maj Gen Thotsaphon Songsuwan, commander of the 2nd Cavalry Division;
#Lt Gen Nop Phinsaikaao, a pensioned officer, chairman of the Suratip artillery group;
Maj Gen Banthao Yaiket, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division;
#Admiral Praphat Kritsanachan, Navy commander-in-chief;
Lt Gen Pramom Phalasin, assistant Army chief-of-staff (operations);
#General Panya Singsakda, secretary-general to PM [Prime Minister] Chatchai Chunhawan;
V/Adm Pleng Malasut, assistant Navy chief-of-staff (logistics);
AM [Air Marshal] Phanom Thiratsawathi, assistant Air chief-of-staff (operations);
ACM Phisit Salikhup, deputy Armed Forces chief-of-staff;
Lt Gen Yutthana Yaemphan, commanding general of the Army Training Command Department;
AM Roengchai Sanitphan, deputy Air chief-of-staff;
AM Likhit Suwannathat, deputy Air chief-of-staff;
#Gen Wanchai Chitchamnong, a pensioned officer (with connection to the premier);
#Lt Gen Watthanachai Wutthisiri, commander of the First Army Region;

Gen Wichit Wichitsongkhram, Defence Ministry permanent secretary;
Lt Gen Siri Thiwapphan, commander of the Third Army Region;
V/Adm Sathit Chitsuk, deputy Navy chief-of-staff;
Gen Somkhuan Suwan, deputy Armed Forces chief-of-staff;
Maj Gen Somchet Sapsombun, commander of the 5th Infantry Division;
V/Adm Sombun Niamloi, assistant Navy chief-of-staff (operations);
Adm Sunthon Krathet, deputy Armed Forces chief-of-staff;
#Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, Armed Forces chief-of-staff;
Maj Gen Surachet Dechatiwong, commander of the 2nd Special Combat Force Division;
Maj Gen Suraphon Suwannapha, a pensioned officer (with connection to Army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut);
Lt Gen Soem Chaiyabut, assistant Army chief-of-staff (personnel);
Adm Sawek Tatthong, Navy chief-of-staff;
#Lt Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, commander of the Second Army Region
#Wira Romayarp, executive vice president of the Bangkok Bank;
Sombat Phanitchiwa, managing director of Thai Asahi Glass Co, adviser to the PM;
Sakon Sakunthai, executive vice president of the Bangkok Metropolitan Bank;
Sunthon Sathianthai, chairman of the Laemthong Bank;
Phithak Inthrawithayanon, oilman;
Suchat Howattanakun, hotelier;
Kritsada Kampanatsaenyakon;
Kamon Nuchanathanon;
Banchong Wisommai;
Sompong Trisukhi;
Sunthon Ruanglek, former director-general of the royal Irrigation Department;
Mrs Sumon Somsan.

Phansak Winyarat, head of the PM's policy advisory group, is one of the academicians appointed to the Senate. The other are:
Dr Somphop Hotrakit of Chulalongkorn University;
#Dr Nongyao Chaiseri, former rector of Thammasat University and now director of the National Youth Bureau;
Dr Chai-anan Samutwanit, of the Thailand Development Research Institute;
Dr Bunchana Atthakorn;
Dr Nikhom Chantharawithun, adviser to the PM on labour affairs;

Two new labour leaders appointed to the Senate are:
Thanong Pho-an of the Labour Congress of Thailand;
Thawi Praphai, head of the State Railway Union.

The 66 former senators who were not re-appointed are:

Krachang Phanthumnawin, former deputy secretary-general to the former prime minister, Prem Tinsulanon;
Maj Gen Krawi Suthat Na Ayutthaya, former deputy secretary-general to the PM;
Krit Rattanak, president of the bank of Ayutthaya;
Kasem Chatikkawanit, president of the Thai Oil Co;
Kasem Suwannakun, executive director of the Thai Red Cross Society and former rector of Chulalongkorn University;
Chirayu Itsrangkun Na Ayutthaya, director-general of the Bureau of the Crown Property, and former PM's Office Mifnister (in the Prem V administration);
Gen Chuthai Saengthawip, retired former deputy Army chief;
Chawalit Rungsaeng, businessman;
Chairat Khamnuan, a senior executive of the Bangkok Bank;
Pol Lt Gen Chan Manutham, chairman of the PM's advisory board (Prem V administration);
Chaowat Phothirattanangkun, businessman;
Chumsai Hatsadin, businessman;
Pol Gen Narong Mahanon, retired former national police chief;
Vice Admiral Damrong Sekhanan, a pensioned officer;
ACM Thuanthong Yotawut, retired former Armed Forces chief-of-staff;
Vice Admiral Thawit Bunyaratnaphan, a pensioned officer;
Pol Maj Gen Thianchai Wirakun, a pensioned officer;
Adm Thada Ditthabanchong, retired former Navy chief;
Adm Nippon Sirithon, retired former Navy chief;
Nukun Prachuapmo, businessman, former governor of the Bank of Thailand;
Gen Banchop Bunnak, retired former Armed Forces chief-of-staff;
Banchot Chonwihan, chairman of the Union Bank of Bangkok;
Pol Lt Gen Banthoeng Kampanatsaenyakon, a pensioned officer;
Maj Gen Bunchai Ditthakun;
Gen Pathom Soemsin, retired former Armed forces chief-of-staff;
Vice Admiral Prakop Wasinon, a pensioned officer;
M.L. Prakit Thinnakon, an agricudltural expert;
Gen Prayun Bunnak, retired former Defence Ministry permanent secretary;
Sq/Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong Sunsiri, former secretary-general to the PM (Gen Prem);
Piya Chakkaphak, retired former National Intelligence Agency director;
Pricha Simisap, labour leader;
Phrut Uppathamphanon, news commentator of the MCOT [Mass Communication Organization of Thailand]
Khunying Phuangrat Wiwekanon, educator;
Gen Phat Minakanit, retired former commander of the Second Army Region, chairman of the Telephone Organization of Thailand;
Lt Gen Phat Urailoet, retired former commander of the First Army Region;
Manatsawi Unhanan, a pensioned officer;

Adm Yutthana Choetbunmuang, a pensioned officer;
Rat Phanomkhuan, a pensioned officer;
Lamiat Pradapsi, a labour leader;
Wathanyu Na Thalang, former chairman of the PM's advisory board (the Prem administration);
Warin Phunsiriwong businessman;
Wichai Kanchanaphan;
Withun Osathanon;
Dr Wikit Wiranuwat, medical science professor;
Wira Kiriwatana, businessman;
Wira Susangkorakan, former Industry Ministry permanent secretary, now a senior adviser to the Industry Ministry;
Sanong Tuchinda, lawyer;
Lt Gen Somkhith Chongphayuha, director of the Directorate of Joint Operations Supreme Command;
Somchai Khieowan, labour leader;
Colonel Somchai Hiranyakit, former governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand;
Sombun Nanthaphiwat, former managing director of the Laem Thong Bank;
Suang Aksaranukhro, businessman;
Sawat Lukdot, labour leader;
Singto Changtrakun, businessman;
Sippanon Ketuthat, president of National Petrochemical Corporation;
Sutham Wichutraiphop, agricultural expert;
Pol Lt Gen Suwan Ratanachun, a pensioned officer;
Suwit Nawawong, businessman;
Lieutenant Anant Phanchet, businessman;
Anuson Supmanu, businessman;
Amon Raksasat, educator;
ACM Arun Phromthep, retired former deputy Supreme Commander;
Amat Khamthetthong, labour leader;
AM Udom Thanomkunlabut, a pensioned officer;
Ukrit Mongkhonnawin, former Senate President.

Nine Opposition Members Join Chatchai's Party
BK2204015989 Bangkok THE NATION in English
22 Apr 89 pp 1, 2

[Text] Nine dissidents of the defunct Prachachon Party formally defected to the Chat Thai Party yesterday, giving a big blow to the much-heralded Solidarity Party formed earlier this week by four opposition groups.

Gen Han Linanon, who led the dissidents, told a news conference at Parliament that Chat Thai Party and his group shared common political platforms, especially those on Indochina and Thai-US trade relations.

Han, an MP representing Nakhon Si Thammarat, was the chief adviser of Prachachon Party before it was dissolved along with two other opposition parties (Progressive and Community Action). The three parties merged with the Ruam Thai Party to form the Solidarity.

Han was flanked during the press conference by five of the eight [other] ex-Prachachon MPs.

The nine MPs formally submitted their applications to join Chat Thai Party to its leader, Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, at his Ratchakhru home yesterday morning.

"We are glad to have new members joining us," said Banhan Sinlapa-acha, secretary general of Chat Thai Party.

The dissidents were also greeted by other senior Chat Thai members.

With the nine new members, Chat Thai, which is the core of the coalition government, now has 96 MPs. As a result the six-party coalition has enlarged its majority in the 357-MP House of Representatives to 230 MPs.

But the defection hampers the Solidarity's hope of becoming the second biggest political party. The newly-born political force, which comprises about 50 MPs now, is pinning its hopes on four other former Prachachon MPs who have not decided whether to join it.

Han said Chat Thai Party has a strong organization and ideology. "We hope to further strengthen the party by joining it."

He said if he joined the Solidarity Party, his political role would be limited. Han denied that he joined Chat Thai because he wanted some political portfolio.

Chatchai told reporters at Government House that he would not reshuffle the Cabinet though his party has had nine more MPs.

"They are homeless, so we have to give them shelter," the prime minister said.

Chatchai has been criticized by the Opposition for openly luring Prachachon dissidents by suggesting that anybody who defects from the opposition bloc would be welcome to his party.

The eight other MPs are Chaturon Chaisaeng (Chachoen-sao), Chaturon Kotchasi (Chumphon), Sawat Sup-saiphrom (Sisaket), Witthaya Khan-asa (Ubon Ratchathani), Phichai Mongkonwirakun (Kalasin), Thanit Traiwut (Trat), Phithak Rangsittham (Trang) and Nikon Chamong (Songkhla). The last three MPs did not join the press conference.

Chaturon said the faction's decision was based partly on the prospect that the Chatchai government would become so strong that the opposition "would be completely overshadowed".

He said the Solidarity had "certain conditions" that would prevent his group from being fully active in politics. He did not elaborate.

Vietnam

Nguyen Co Thach, Shevardnadze Discuss Issues

Discuss Cambodia

PM2304170389 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr 89
Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In an Atmosphere of Friendship"]

[Text] On 22 April E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, had a conversation with Nguyen Co Thach, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Politburo, vice chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers, and SRV foreign minister, who is in Moscow in connection with a meeting of the cochairmen of the Soviet-Vietnamese intergovernmental commission for economic and scientific and technical cooperation.

The ministers briefed one another on the progress of restructuring in the Soviet Union and renewal in Vietnam. They had a detailed, in-depth discussion of questions of bilateral cooperation. In addition to the positive assessments of its development, a certain dissatisfaction was expressed with the fact that the returns obtained by both sides in a number of areas of trade and economic ties are insufficient, while new forms are only slowly being introduced.

The sides confirmed the unity of the Soviet and Vietnamese approaches to the solution of the fundamental problems of today and their desire to take vigorous action to establish new political thinking in international affairs. The ministers spoke in favor of further normalizing relations between East and West.

E.A. Shevardnadze dwelled on the situation in Afghanistan. He said that the Afghan people's enemies predictions that the government would fall after the withdrawal of Soviet troops have not come true. At this difficult time for the country, the working people and all strata of the Afghan population have actively supported the legitimate government which has taken charge of the Republic of Afghanistan's struggle for freedom and independence. It was stated that the Soviet Union and Vietnam are decisively opposed to outside interference in the internal affairs of this country and are in favor of the strictest observance of the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan.

Nguyen Co Thach informed the other side of the practical steps being taken by Vietnam and the other countries of Indochina to normalize the situation in Southeast Asia.

E.A. Shevardnadze noted that the positive development of the situation in Southeast Asia and progress in the settlement of the Cambodian problem are a source of great satisfaction to the Soviet Union. The Cambodia, Lao, and SRV Governments' statement of 5 April this year—a major initiative by the three states of Indochina, which has justly found support from all who are really

interested in eliminating conflict in this region—has given a powerful boost to the task of finding the earliest possible solution to the Cambodian problem.

The ministers were unanimous that now, when the question of a schedule for the withdrawal of the Vietnamese volunteer forces from Cambodia has been resolved, a task of paramount importance is to take measures to prevent the return of the Pol Pot regime to power, to prevent genocide and the outbreak of civil war there, and to end foreign military aid to all Cambodian sides. It was emphasized that Cambodia's internal problems must be resolved by the Cambodians themselves without outside interference. In this context, particular importance is attached to the meeting between Hun Sen, chairman of the People's Republic of Kampuchea Council of Ministers, and Prince N. Sihanouk at the beginning of May this year.

The sides noted the constructive role of informal meetings in Jakarta and the importance of positive changes in relations between the countries of Indochina and ASEAN for the promotion of a Cambodian settlement.

It is important that all interested states use every opportunity at their disposal to promote the Cambodian problem's solution and prevent any steps that could impede this process or slow it down.

The ministers spoke in favor of convening an international conference on Cambodia. It would be justified if it were held before the completion of the withdrawal of foreign troops from Cambodia.

Nguyen Co Thach expressed the belief that the forthcoming Soviet-Chinese summit meeting will have a favorable impact on the situation in Asia and international relations as a whole.

The conversation proceeded in an atmosphere of traditional friendship and complete mutual understanding.

Discuss Bilateral Relations

*BK2404163489 Hanoi VNA in English 1512 GMT
24 Apr 89*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Apr 24—Nguyen Co Thach, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister of the SRV, on Apr. 23 continued his talks with Eduard Shevardnadze, Politburo member of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR.

The two sides thoroughly discussed ways to further enhance Vietnamese-Soviet relations in various aspects. They examined the present state of economic cooperation between the two countries and its prospect in the conditions of profound changes taking place in both Vietnam and the Soviet Union.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach stated that Soviet assistance has played an important role in the restoration and development of Vietnam's national economy, and in the future Vietnam will have to rely on the Soviet Union in its socialist construction. He informed his Soviet counterpart of Vietnam's measures to make efficient use of Soviet assistance.

The two sides unanimously stressed that the implementation of socio-economic tasks in Vietnam and the Soviet Union require both countries to accelerate the renovation of their economic cooperation in line with what was already agreed upon between General Secretaries Nguyen Van Linh and Mikhail Gorbachev during the former's visit to the Soviet Union in May 1987.

The two ministers exchanged views on the role of foreign policy-making offices of the two countries in perfecting their economic, scientific and technical ties.

Vietnamese Ambassador to the Soviet Union Nguyen Man Cam was also present at the talks, which took place in an atmosphere of openness, mutual understanding and friendship.

Talks Held in Atmosphere of 'Frankness'

*LD2304155689 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1500 GMT 23 Apr 89*

[Text] Comrade Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, and Nguyen Co Thach, member of the CPV Central Committee Politburo, deputy chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs, held another meeting on April 23. They continued their detailed and committed talks about the deepening of Soviet-Vietnamese relations in various fields.

In particular there was discussion of the state and prospects of USSR-Vietnam economic cooperation under the conditions of the profound changes being implemented by both countries.

Nguyen Co Thach declared that the Soviet Union's help plays an important role in the restoration and development of Vietnam's national economy and that the SRV will continue to depend on the USSR in the matter of socialist construction. He spoke of the Vietnamese leadership's measures aimed at raising the efficiency of the use of received aid.

Both sides stressed unanimously that the solution of social and economic tasks facing the Soviet Union and Vietnam demand an acceleration of the restructuring of economic cooperation in accordance with the policy determined during the visit to the Soviet Union by Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee in May 1987, and his meetings with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev.

The ministers exchanged opinions on the role of the foreign policy departments of both countries in work on the improvement of economic and scientific and technical links. The conversation was held in an atmosphere of frankness, mutual understanding, and friendship.

Nguyen Van Linh Makes Official Visit to Cuba

Leaves Moscow for Cuba

*BK2504074289 Hanoi VNA in English 0705 GMT
25 Apr 89*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 25—Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, left Moscow yesterday for an official friendship visit to Cuba.

While in Moscow, the Vietnamese party leader participated in the presidium of a meeting in the Kremlin on April 21 to mark V.I. Lenin's birthday. On April 22, he paid a floral tribute to the late Soviet leader at his mausoleum, and visited the Lenin museum in Gorkiy village.

Envoy Discusses Visit

*BK2204153689 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 22 Apr 89*

[Text] Vietnamese Ambassador to Cuba Do Van Tai gave a news conference with the participation of numerous central Cuban newspapers and radio and television stations and a number of American journalists to expound on the historic significance of Comrade Nguyen Van Linh's visit to Cuba.

The ambassador pointed out: This is the first Vietnamese party general secretary visit to Cuba. First of all, it is aimed at fulfilling a wish expressed by President Ho Chi Minh during his lifetime that once victory was achieved, he would visit all fraternal nations and friends in the five continents—among them the Cuban party, government, and people—as a representative of the Vietnamese party and people—to thank them for their warm support and assistance to our people in the struggle against aggressors. This visit and the talks to be held between Comrade Nguyen Van Linh and Comrade Fidel Castro will deal with relations between the two countries and international issues of mutual concern. They will also help further tighten the militant solidarity and fraternal relations between the two countries and strengthen the overall cooperation between Cuba and Vietnam.

Official Notes Agricultural Aid

*BK2104154989 Hanoi VNA in English 1450 GMT
21 Apr 89*

[Text] Hanoi (ECO-VNA-OANA) VNA April 21—“Vietnam and Cuba have for a long time now cooperated in livestock breeding, farming and food processing,” said Nguyen Van Phuoc, head of the Department for International Cooperation under the Vietnamese Ministry of

Agriculture and Food Industry, in an exclusive interview with VNA on the occasion of party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh's visit to Cuba.

The main content of the interview follows:

Cuba has helped Vietnam in building farms for raising purebred stock and transferring the techniques for maintaining and improving the breeds and developing commercial animal breeding. Cuba has supplied the necessary materials and technical equipment for these undertakings. As a result, Vietnam's dairy and chicken husbandry has taken shape and developed. Milch cows from Cuba are now raised at Moc Chau Farm in the north, and at Lam Dong Farm in the south. About 6,000 crossbred calves have been supplied to other southern provinces. Many generations of Cuban chickens have flourished in Vietnam giving rise to a chicken raising industry on a national scale. Cuban-supplied pigs have been multiplied for distribution to pig farms throughout the country, helping to increase the weight of pigs per head and the quality of their meat.

With regard to citrus cultivation, Cuba has assisted Vietnam by supplying seeds and know-how in plant protection and harvest preservation. Cuba has sent sugarcane strains for large-scale cultivation in Vietnam and helped build a sugarcane research institution at Ben Cat in the southern Province of Song Be. In furtherance of a cooperation agreement signed by the two governments in February 1987, Cuba has granted a long-term credit for upgrading and expanding existing sugar mills and building new ones capable of producing 500 tons of sugar a day. One such mill is expected to be commissioned in Tay Ninh Province, southern Vietnam, in 1990.

For its part, Vietnam has shared its farming experiences with Cuba. We have helped Cuba with high-yielding wet rice strains and cross-breeding techniques, azolla seeds, and experiences in the mechanisation of wet rice farming. We have sent 350 tons of seed garlic for cultivation in Cuba. Besides, we have also helped Cuba in planting pepper and tea, in fighting diseases of such plants as coffee, orange and lemon.

The two countries have also cooperated in many other domains such as apiculture, veterinary medicine, bean, cocoa and tobacco planting, alcohol distillery, and in the exchange of scientific and technical information.

Le Duc Anh Writes on Cambodian Armed Forces

*BK2404085189 Hanoi TAP CHI QUOC PHONG
TOAN DAN in Vietnamese Jan 89 pp 3-9*

[Article by General Le Duc Anh: “In Commemoration of the 10th National Day of the People's Republic of Kampuchea (7 January 1979-7 January 1989)—The Cambodian Revolution's Victory Is Irreversible”]

[Text] In these days of January, sharing the great joy of the Cambodian people, our people, together with all men of goodwill throughout the world, jubilantly welcome the

10th anniversary of the Cambodian revolution's great victory in smashing the genocidal Pol Pot regime, founding the People's Republic of Kampuchea [PRK], saving the nation from the catastrophe of extinction, and paving the way for Cambodia to enter a new era, the era of the people being the real masters of their own destiny and enjoying independence and freedom.

Over the past 10 years, under the banner of the correct leadership of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP], emerging from the ruins and devastation left behind by the Pol Pot regime, the Cambodian people have scored great achievements in many fields in the process of their revival.

The people-built revolutionary administration at all levels, from the center down to the grass roots, has become increasingly stronger nationwide and is satisfactorily discharging its function of managing the country in all spheres, from domestic to external affairs, from political, economic, cultural, and educational to national defense work.

The Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense—the rallying point of large sections of people of all strata, nationalities, and religions—is vigorously developing its role in consolidating and broadening the bloc of all-people unity, uniting the fraternal nationalities in the country and overseas Cambodians, and mobilizing and bringing into full play the strength of mastery of the entire Cambodian people to carry the tasks of national construction and defense.

The KPRP, the leadership banner of Cambodian revolution—which, as clearly pointed out in the Fifth KPRP Congress' resolution, is "the most important guarantee for the Cambodian revolution to advance from now on in a correct fashion and never to be betrayed again"—has made important progress in rebuilding itself according to the revolutionary principles of Marxism-Leninism. Deeply rooted in the masses, loved and trusted by the people, the party is carrying out its momentous mission of leading the Cambodian people in overcoming all difficulties, rebuilding the country's life entirely, and firmly safeguarding the revolutionary gains.

The economy has been rehabilitated step by step and has recorded achievements in which one can rightfully take pride. Fairly substantial development has been achieved in implementing the four major programs—those of food, rubber, and timber production and fishery—of the First 5-Year Socioeconomic Plan.... Market prices and the value of the Cambodian currency, the riel, are basically stable. The starvation and people's poor health that prevailed in the early days of liberation have been checked and overcome. The people's life has been stabilized and improved in many aspects.

Culture and education have also scored significant achievements. Illiteracy has been virtually eliminated nationwide. Kindergarten and general education have

been developed very strongly. Development of higher and vocational education has also been paid due attention, attracting tens of thousands of students and pupils, and thousands of people have been sent abroad for further education.

On the front of national defense and of safeguarding the revolutionary gains, the Cambodian revolution's sacred foremost task, the Cambodian people and their Revolutionary Armed Forces have also scored very great successes. They have established and steadily consolidated their mastery over all Cambodian territory from the border to the inland regions and on all the ground, in the air, and on the seas. They have succeeded in rebuilding a revolutionary armed force that is really revolutionary, really of the people, and includes regular troops, local troops, militiamen, and people's security services to serve as an effective revolutionary administration instrument in defending the homeland and maintaining national security. At the same time, they have also succeeded in mobilizing and organizing a broad all-people movement to struggle and to promote national defense and security. Closely coordinated with the struggle in other fields, the successful struggle for national defense and security has made decisive contributions to protecting the people's lives and property, safeguarding Cambodia's national independence, sovereignty, and revolutionary gains, and guaranteeing that the PRK Government can firmly maintain its control and mastery over the entire territory of Cambodia. **In the international arena,** with its foreign policy of peace, friendship, and cooperation with other countries, and with its correct policy of national reconciliation which reflects the Cambodian people's profound aspirations and conforms with the trend of our times, the PRK has seen its prestige ceaselessly enhanced, especially as a result of the many fair and reasonable initiatives and proposals it has successively put forth recently in an effort to find, together with the other parties concerned, a satisfactory political solution to the Cambodia issue. These initiatives and proposals have won the sympathy of large segments of public opinion the world over.

The past 10 years was only a very short period of time in the long history of the Cambodian nation's development. However, the achievements recorded by the Cambodian people have been truly grandiose. The Cambodian people have extracted these successes from the ashes and ruins left behind by the Pol Pot regime, from an exhausted economy and a topsy-turvy social structure, with a people then wallowing in poverty and disease and battered by repeated natural calamities, and with a country plunged into total suffering but still having to cope continuously with cruel and frenzied schemes of sabotage and counterattacks of many hostile forces opposed to the Cambodian people's aspirations for peace, independence, and freedom.

These great achievements and successes have proven the marvelous vitality of the Cambodian people of various nationalities and the monumental strength of the new

social system in Cambodia. They have also shown the Cambodian revolutionary forces' will for self-reliance and their capability to surge ahead vigorously to completely master the destiny of their homeland.

Our people and Army are extremely elated over the great achievements recorded by the Cambodian people. On the occasion of this major festive day of the Land of Angkor, we would like to extend to the fraternal Cambodian people and armed forces our warmest congratulations.

As many resolutions of the KPRP Central Committee have affirmed, the great achievements scored by the Cambodian people are attributable to the KPRP leadership with its correct revolutionary and military lines; to the persistent efforts and labor and the great sacrifices and fighting of the entire Cambodian people and their Revolutionary Armed Forces; to the great and effective assistance given in the spirit of proletarian internationalism by the Vietnamese party, government, people, and Army volunteers; and to the great and effective assistance and support of Laos and the Soviet Union, of other countries in the socialist community, of India, and of progressive people throughout the world.

Ten years ago, to defend their homeland against the war of aggression waged by the reactionary Pol Pot clique, to counter its extremely barbarous acts against our people, and to respond to the persistent appeal of the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation and the Cambodian people faced with the catastrophe of extinction, several units of the Vietnamese People's Army, after repeatedly defeating the aggressive attacks on our country's southwestern border, and in execution of the SRV Government's decision, launched a lightning counteroffensive into Cambodian territory, striking at the lair of the Phnom Penh aggressive and genocidal clique, thus fulfilling the lofty, historic mission of coordinating with the Cambodian revolutionary forces to overthrow the genocidal Pol Pot regime. Afterward, the Vietnamese Army volunteers, together with the Cambodian people and their Armed Forces, continued their struggle to defend Cambodia and safeguard the revolutionary gains and to assist the Cambodian people in their revival process and, in building and strengthening the political and military forces of the Cambodian revolution so that they would gradually become strong enough to act as their own masters in national construction and defense and in safeguarding their revolutionary gains.

In the early, utterly tragic period experienced by Cambodia as a result of the genocidal regime's legacy following the 7 January 1979 victory, Vietnamese army volunteer units, at the request of the Cambodian revolutionary administration, spread out almost all over the country, which was then still gripped by death and grief. They went deeply into every hamlet and village, every forest, mountain, river, and spring...to continue fighting the enemy while saving the people, doing everything industriously. The Vietnamese volunteers brought relief to victims of

starvation, treated the sick, and helped return the displaced to their birthplaces so that they could stabilize their lives, restore production, set up production solidarity teams, build militia forces in hamlets and villages, and so forth; thereby actively contributing to quickly stabilizing the people's lives and restoring social order in the period when the revolution was still in its infancy.

Then, closely coordinating with various sectors and localities, Vietnamese Volunteer Army units and specialists have, for many years, braved sacrifices, difficulties, and hardships and stood shoulder to shoulder with the Cambodian armed forces and people, and fought valiantly, persistently, and continuously, defeating all of the enemy's frenzied counterattacks and constantly maintaining and expanding the revolution's control throughout the country. At the same time, they have persistently and untiringly helped friends build the Revolutionary Armed Forces and make them grow ever bigger and stronger. Our Army has also actively assisted friends in building and consolidating bases at the hamlet and village levels and in launching and developing revolutionary movements of the masses. It should be pointed out that over the past 10 years, our cadres and soldiers have had to fight and work continuously on our friends' battlefield under extremely hard and difficult conditions resulting from a very harsh climate, the constant threat of malaria, privations in material and spiritual life, and the language barrier. Furthermore, their families in the rear area have been faced with numerous difficulties in their daily life, and their duty to fight and help friends has been very heavy, diverse, and complex with the requirements of work and combat assignments being very intense.... In spite of all this, the great majority of our cadres and soldiers have upheld the pure spirit of proletarian internationalism, firmed up their resolve to fight and work, persistently and positively overcome all difficulties and privations, and satisfactorily fulfilled their duty to fight and help friends. The steady emergence of numerous typical examples of revolutionary heroism and the pure spirit of proletarian internationalism which clearly reflect the fine nature and traditions of the Vietnam People's Army and "Uncle Ho's soldiers" has deeply impressed our friends and commanded the trust of the Cambodian armed forces and people.

This lofty quality of our troops was pointed out by Comrade Chea Sim, member of the Political Bureau of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, chairman of the National Assembly, and chairman of the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense: "...Our Cambodian party, government, army, and people forever bear deep in our hearts the lofty proletarian internationalist spirit displayed by you, comrades, in helping the Cambodian Armed Forces and people." (Speech delivered by Comrade Chea Sim at a ceremony held on 29 June 1988 in Phnom Penh to confer the Angkor Order of the People's Republic of Kampuchea State on the Vietnamese volunteer army command and the team of Vietnamese military specialists)

After 10 years of construction and combat, the land of Cambodia has now been truly revived. The revolutionary forces of Cambodia have gradually become able to assume by themselves all the tasks of national defense and construction. The success of the Cambodian revolution is irreversible.

Our party, state, people, and Army are very honored to make their worthy contributions to this historic success of the fraternal Cambodian party, government, and people.

In recognition of the meritorious services of cadres and soldiers of the Vietnamese volunteer army and the team of Vietnamese military specialists who had outstandingly fulfilled their internationalist duty in Cambodia, the People's Republic of Kampuchea State bestowed on them the Angkor Order—Cambodia's highest distinction—and the SRV State, the Gold Star Order—Vietnam's highest distinction. These lofty awards have once again further embellished the glorious combat tradition and the shining revolutionary nature of the Vietnam People's Army, for the country, for the people, and for internationalist duty.

As we all know, due to the barbarous genocidal policy of the reactionary Pol Pot regime, the Cambodian nation has, after regaining administrative power, had to start the revolution again from scratch, rebuild the country, and rebuild the true forces of the revolution from top to bottom. This special situation has imposed new, very complex, diverse, and heavy requirements on the task of the Vietnamese Army volunteers and specialists to help friends in Cambodia.

To ensure that our soldiers would satisfactorily fulfill this task, we paid attention to, first of all, inculcating in our cadres and combatants a **correct viewpoint and attitude** concerning their duty to assist our friends. We concentrated on these two key points:

First, we educated our cadres and combatants time and again to make sure that every one of them had a profound understanding of our party's viewpoint on **the unity between the national duty and international duty** and of Uncle Ho's teaching that **"helping our friends is to help ourselves."** On this basis, we enabled everyone to become deeply imbued with genuine patriotism and pure proletarian internationalism, ready to make sacrifices and to fight in the interests of our nation and those of fraternal nations, to stay united and help one another satisfactorily fulfill all tasks, and to achieve total victory in both the political and military fields in the period immediately ahead as well as in the long run. We also saw to it that everyone overcame all manifestations of big-nation chauvinism and bigoted nationalism. We imposed strict political requirements that, while performing their duties in Cambodia, our cadres and combatants must absolutely respect the independence, sovereignty, and law of the Cambodian state, respect the Cambodian Administration and Armed Forces, respect and love the Cambodian people, respect the customs and habits of the Cambodian

people of various nationalities, and absolutely avoid violating the property of the Cambodian people and their country. Each word and deed of our cadres and combatants must be geared to strengthening the Cambodian revolutionary forces and promoting Vietnamese-Cambodian solidarity, thereby creating a good reputation for themselves and fostering a sentiment of loyal affection in the hearts of the Cambodian people.

Second, we paid attention to educating our cadres and combatants so that they became fully imbued with the viewpoint that **"the victory of the Cambodian revolution must be decided by its own force."** Everyone must clearly realize that, because of the betrayal of the Pol Pot ruling clique, the Cambodian revolutionary force was young and weak at the beginning and needed the assistance of Vietnamese Army volunteers to overthrow the genocidal regime. However, in the process of development and advance of the revolution and in national reconstruction and defense, the decisive force must be the Cambodian people themselves, and no one else can do the job for them. Revolution is an undertaking of the masses. The revolutionary cause of each country must be decided by the people of that country themselves.

On the basis of this viewpoint, right from the beginning we clearly determined that the consistent and ultimate goal of all our efforts was to help our Cambodian friends build their real revolutionary strength and their Revolutionary Armed Forces, to assist them so that they might develop step by step and eventually become strong enough to take care of their own national construction and defense. The faster our friends developed, the earlier the Vietnamese Army volunteers would go home. We inculcated in our cadres and combatants a firm belief in the capabilities of our friends in all fields and respect for their independence, initiative, and all their innovative ideas; and readiness to promptly detect and overcome all biased thinking and wrongful actions that may crop up in the process of giving assistance to our friends.

In the years when they were performing their international duties in Cambodia, cadres and combatants of the volunteer forces and the group of Vietnamese specialists always received much affection and wholehearted care and protection from the party, government, and all the people of Cambodia as if they were their own sons and daughters. They were enjoyed close coordination in combat with the Cambodian Revolutionary Armed Forces, who learned from and creatively applied the experience of Vietnam. The growth process of the Cambodian revolutionary forces has made it possible for Vietnam to carry out partial withdrawals of its Army volunteers annually.

The growth of the Cambodian revolution has created additional favorable conditions for Vietnam to build and defend its homeland and helped bolster the strength and position of the revolutions of the three Indochinese countries. Our party, government, people, and Army will never forget that great assistance and support.

On the occasion of this major festive day of the Land of Angkor, our people and Army would like to extend to the party, government, people, and Armed Forces of Cambodia our heartfelt gratitude.

We are extremely elated to note that our close and loyal relationship and our readiness to share weal and woe, to come to each other's rescue in distress, and always to accord each other wholehearted assistance, have been painstakingly forged in the long struggle against our common colonialist and imperialist enemies. Through this protracted trial, the special solidarity between Vietnam and Cambodia has been elevated to a new height, thereby turning itself into an invaluable common legacy of the two nations, for the sake of both present and future generations.

It is our heartfelt wish that the Cambodian people will continue to score many new and even greater achievements in carrying out their tasks of national construction and defense, in their struggle for peace and national reconciliation, and in their effort to suppress crime and bring about happiness for all the people throughout Cambodia.

Turning toward the Vietnamese army volunteers units still performing their international duty in Cambodia, we would like to extend to all our beloved cadres and combatants our intimate regards and our best wishes for their good health. It is our wish that our comrades will continue to uphold their genuine patriotism and pure proletarian internationalism and to do their best in helping the Cambodian friends score many new victories, thereby effectively contributing to the struggle in other fields to achieve a principled political solution that correctly responds to the Cambodian people's aspiration and ensures that their revolutionary cause will continue to advance in the new situation and be ready to cope with any eventuality.

Commentary on Arms Supply to Noncommunist Khmer
BK2204075089 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 22 Apr 89

[NHAN DAN 22 April commentary: "Do They Want a Peaceful Solution or a Continuing Civil War?"]

[Text] It is the general trend of a broad section of public opinion in various countries to welcome and strongly support the 5 April joint declaration of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, Laos, and Vietnam to complete the withdrawal of Vietnamese Army volunteers from Cambodia by the end of September 1989. This is regarded complying with those agreements reached at JIM 1 and JIM 2 [first and second Jakarta informal meetings] and a positive contribution to spurring dialogue with the aim of seeking a political solution to the Cambodian issue.

Welcoming the joint declaration of the three Indochinese countries, the world public has once again asserted its sympathy and support for an important consensus

reached at JIM 1 and JIM 2—that the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops must be linked with the prevention of the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime, with an end to foreign interference, and with the termination of military aid to all Cambodian parties. Many voices have been raised, pointing out that there must be effective measures to prevent the genocidal specter from reappearing in Cambodia and to terminate aid to and disarm the Khmer Rouge.

A number of Western countries said that they support a political solution to the Cambodian issue and they want peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Nevertheless, there have been certain forces still attempting to provide more weapons to opposition forces in Cambodia. Many news reports leaked over the past few days show that there have been plans by this country or that country to ship arms to Sihanouk or Son Sann factions. Everyone knows that recently the three opposition Khmer factions rigged the so-called Supreme National Defense Council, with the Khmer Rouge being at the core. Therefore, no one dares to assure that the arms supply would not fall into the hands of the Khmer Rouge.

In reality, supplying more weapons to the noncommunist Cambodian factions amounts to lending a helping hand to the genocidal Pol Pot clique. Therefore, siphoning off arms to the two [noncommunist] opposition factions—under any argument—will serve nothing other than further fueling the flames of the Cambodian conflict and creating conditions for the genocidal Pol Pot clique to make a comeback in Cambodia. Thus, how can they say they want a peaceful solution to the Cambodian issue?

It should be further noted here that in the past the Sihanoukist faction has also made active efforts to seek foreign military assistance to allegedly enhance its role. People of clear mind hold that the role and prestige of Mr Sihanouk lies in the fact that he should side with the Cambodian people in rebuilding the country in peace and not follow the genocidal Pol Pot clique to continue the civil war against his own people.

While countries in the region trying to promote the trend of dialogue and cooperation with the aim of seeking a satisfactory political solution to the Cambodian issue, attempts to provide more weapons to any Cambodian factions will amount to encouraging the conflict; thus perplexing the situation and creating more sufferings for the Cambodian people. Anyone doing so will oppose the aspirations of the Cambodian people and other countries in the region. Those who provide more weapons do not want peace and an early political solution, but rather a prolonged Cambodian civil war.

Thai Deputy Minister Arrives in Ho Chi Minh City
BK2404134389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1340 GMT
24 Apr 89

[Text] Hanoi, April 24 (AFP)—Thailand's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Praphat Limpaphan arrived Monday in Ho Chi Minh City for a 24-hour visit to southern Vietnam, Thai diplomatic sources said here.

During the visit, Mr. Praphat is expected to retake possession of the former Thai Embassy in the city when it was Saigon, capital of South Vietnam, before it fell in 1975.

Vietnamese authorities had announced Friday that they had decided to return the premises to Thailand.

Mr. Praphat brought with him three Vietnamese who had illegally fled their country to Thailand but asked to be repatriated.

The old embassy building may eventually house a Thai consulate, Thai sources said.

The Thai vice minister was also likely to discuss the possibility of opening a Thai trade office in the southern business capital.

During his stay in Ho Chi Minh City, Mr. Praphat will meet with his counterpart Tran Quang Co, the Vietnamese Foreign Affairs Ministry said.

Mr. Co is responsible for the Ministry's Cambodia desk.

Thailand was until recently the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN's) staunchest opponent to the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia since the overthrow of the Khmer Rouge regime 10 years ago.

Vietnam has said it will withdraw all its troops by the end of September.

Non-communist ASEAN groups Thailand with Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore and supports a U.N.-seated tripartite resistance coalition fighting the Hanoi-installed Phnom Penh government.

Relations between Bangkok and Hanoi have warmed significantly since a visit to Hanoi by top Thai diplomat Sitthi Sawetasila in January.

Vietnamese Foreign Affairs Minister Nguyen Co Thach is to visit Bangkok at the end of April to attend a symposium organized by THE NATION newspaper and ASIaweek magazine on the "transformation of the Indochinese battlefield into a marketplace" which will also be attended by Thai, Lao and Cambodian participants.

Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Chunnhawan pledged when he came into office last August that he would encourage trade with Indochina.

CEMA Holds Conference on Aquaculture Cooperation
BK2204153289 Hanoi VNA in English 1453 GMT
22 Apr 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 22—Representatives of member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (C.M.E.A) signatory to a joint agreement on fresh water fish rearing convened their 10th conference in Hanoi on April 17-21.

The conference, chaired by the Vietnamese vice-minister of marine products, was attended by representatives from Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, Cuba, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.

The delegates evaluated the implementation of their cooperation projects in 1988, considered measures to carry out their cooperation in 1989, and agreed to exchange the generic pool of fresh water fish.

They all agreed to the need to ensure high economic efficiency for the cooperation in aquaculture, specially of bilateral contracts between research institutes and production centres on the basis of the joint agreement.

On the evening of April 21, the delegates signed the minutes of the conference, which was witnessed by representatives of the Office of the Council of Ministers, the Foreign Ministry, the State Planning Commission, and the State Commission for Science and Technology.

Speaking on this occasion, Vice-Minister of Marine Products Vo Van Trac thanked the other C.M.E.A member countries and the delegates for helping Vietnam to expand fisheries. He highly valued the results of the conference and expressed his hope that the cooperation among CMEA member countries would be effectively broadened.

After the conference, the delegates laid a wreath at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and visited the late president's home and office.

They also toured aquaculture farms in Hanoi's outlying district of Thanh Tri.

Haiphong Receives GDR 'Gift of Solidarity'
BK2404082189 Hanoi VNA in English 0710 GMT
24 Apr 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 24—The Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organizations (VUPSFO) has held a ceremony in the port city of Haiphong to receive gift of solidarity from the people of the German Democratic Republic.

Present at the function were GDR Ambassador Joachim Loeschner, Vice President of the VUPSFO Trinh Ngoc Thai and Mayor of the city Truong Quang Duoc.

Party, State Delegation Leaves for Afghanistan
*BK2204154189 Hanoi VNA in English 1457 GMT
22 Apr 89*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 22—A party and state delegation left here today for the celebrations of the 11th national day of the Republic of Afghanistan at the invitation of the People's Democratic Party and the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The delegation, led by Nguyen Quyet, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and vice president of the State Council, also includes Nguyen Canh Dinh, member of the CPV Central Committee, minister of water conservancy, and president of the Vietnam-Afghanistan Friendship Association.

The delegation was seen off by Dam Quang Trung, secretary of the CPV Central Committee and vice president of the State Council; Nguyen Viet Dung, general secretary of the State Council; and Phan Dinh Vinh, deputy head of the International Department of the CPV Central Committee.

Afghan Charge d'Affaires A.I. to Vietnam A.W. Rasif was also present at the send-off.

British Ambassador Hosts Reception 21 April
*BK2104152989 Hanoi VNA in English 1508 GMT
21 Apr 89*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 21—British Ambassador Emrys Thomas Davies and his wife offered a reception here this evening in honour of British Queen Elizabeth II's birthday.

Present at the event were Phan Hien, minister of justice, Vu Khoan, assistant to the foreign minister, and other officials.

Members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations here were also on hand.

Ambassador Emrys Thomas Davies and Minister Phan Hien proposed toasts to the British queen's birthday and to a further development of the cooperation between the two countries.

AIDS Detection Equipment Received from WHO
*BK2404154789 Hanoi VNA in English 1451 GMT
24 Apr 89*

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 24—The World Health Organization (WHO) recently presented the Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City with medical equipment worth \$60,000 for the detection of AIDS.

With the help of Professor Dr Alain Georges, director of the Bangui Pasteur Institute, and other specialists from the France-U.S. Group for Joint Research on AIDS, Ho Chi Minh City recently organized an AIDS course for medical workers in southern provinces.

Under an agreement between Vietnam and WHO in 1989, the National Anti-AIDS Committee of Vietnam will set up four AIDS centres in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Haiphong and Quang Nam-Da Nang.

NHAN DAN Discusses Theft of Weapons
*BK2404134989 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1000 GMT 24 Apr 89*

[From the Press Review]

[Text] In its security and national defense section, NHAN DAN carries an article on losses of weapons and preventative measures. The article says: Since 1981 there have been 736 cases of theft involving the loss of 10,681 guns, 6 tonnes of explosives, 2.65 million detonators, 10,621 grenades, 3,700 mines, 14,200 rounds of ammunition—including 2,890 100-mm shells—80 antitank rockets, and more than 20,000 meters of slow-burning fuses.

During the 1st 8 months of 1988, there were 122 cases of theft, 23 percent of which occurred at armed forces units, causing the loss of 131 guns, 22,000 detonators, and 50 grenades.

Through this kind of theft, weapons have been siphoned off to the market for sale to hooligans and traders.

In Lang Son Province, through a campaign to mobilize the people, the authorities discovered 100 guns and 98 grenades held by a group of hooligans.

To stop weapons losses which cause serious damage to the state and people, the following measures should be taken:

- Provide adequate information and education to cadres and the people to strictly abide by the law and urge them to refrain from illegally trading in or storing weapons;
- Launch a mass movement to discover those who illegally keep and use weapons and to inform functional agencies to collect recovered weapons. Those who have meritorious service in this movement will be commended and awarded;
- Armed forces and agencies supplied with weapons must strengthen control over arsenals and individuals to prevent losses, disseminate weapons management regulations to officers and combatants to help them

implement them correctly, enhance a sense of responsibility among those who are in charge of protecting and guarding arsenals, and resolutely transfer disqualified people from the work of guarding, patrolling, and protecting arsenals;

—Seriously deal with those who have stolen and illegally traded and stored weapons; and those who have failed to abide by the regulation on the maintenance of weapons, thereby causing losses.

Rice Cultivation, Insect Infestation Reported

BK2204034489 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, as of 15 April various provinces and cities in the north had completed transplanting their winter-spring rice, except for a number of localities in the mountain region where the people practice belated rice transplanting and where efforts are being made to transplant the remaining rice areas. Generally speaking, winter-spring rice is developing favorably. But worthy of note is that insect infestation is developing in various localities. Rice blast has been reported in almost all provinces, affecting such rice varieties as V-14, TR-203, Nong Nghiep-8, and so forth. The density of brown leafhoppers and white-backed rice fulgorids now has increased to more than that of last week, with the average density in many localities reaching 5-10 or even 100-200 insects per square meter.

Southern provinces have harvested winter-spring rice on over 750,000 hectares, representing 90 percent or more of the sown acreage. The amount of rice harvested is said to be fairly high. According to an initial estimate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, the winter-spring rice output of the southern provinces will likely reach 45-46 quintals per hectare.

Along with harvesting winter-spring rice, the provinces are continuing the transplanting of summer-fall rice.

Binh Tri Thien Strives To Stave Off Hunger

BK2404035589 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 Apr 89

[Text] The Binh Tri Thien Provincial People's Council met recently to discuss measures for stepping up production and stabilizing the people's livelihood during the lean preharvest period.

According to a preliminary statistical report, by mid-April more than 118,000 families, comprising 500,000 people, had suffered food shortages. To eliminate part of the difficulties affecting the people's livelihood, Binh Tri Thien has delivered more than 1,100 metric tons of rice to various units to help the people in the areas affected by food shortage and supplied 5,000 metric tons of food in advance to the localities producing export goods or engaged in irrigation work and afforestation.

The province is also encouraging its peasants to develop a sense of mutual assistance while actively planting short-term vegetables and subsidiary crops to stave off hunger on the basis of gradually stabilizing life and accelerating production.

Pham Van Dong Tours Ha Nam Ninh Province

BK2504091989 Hanoi VNA in English 0707 GMT 25 Apr 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 25—Pham Van Dong, advisor to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, on April 20-23 made a tour of Ha Nam Ninh Province, a major rice-producer in the Red River Delta, 90 km south of Hanoi.

During the visit, he visited Hai Hau District, the province's top food-producer, and the Nam Ninh Textile Complex. He also visited Hanh Thien Village, Xuan Hong commune, Xuan Thuy District, the native place of the late President Truong Chinh.

Internal Affairs Bloc Studies Party Resolution

BK2504064589 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Apr 89

[Text] In compliance with party Central Committee Directive No 50-CTTU, the Bloc of Internal Affairs Agencies party committee has just held a cadres conference to study the party Central Committee's sixth plenum resolution.

Attending the conference were many key comrades including department-level cadres, inspectors, judges, arbitrators, members of various departments and public organs party committees and executive committees, and the party chapter secretaries of various public organs in the bloc.

Comrade Tran Quoc Huong, secretary of the party Central Committee and head of the committee's Internal Affairs Committee, personally disseminated the resolution and answered questions raised by various comrades during the course of their study.

Aside from general problems, the conference evaluated the situation and tasks of various internal affairs agencies after 2 years of implementing the sixth party congress resolution and reaffirmed efforts and progress achieved as well as those problems still persisting in organization including slow efforts to renovate internal affairs system activities. The conference also determined the orientations and objectives for continued renovation of organization in support of the current process of renovation, especially the renovation of the economic management mechanism, the application of the multisectorial economic system, the exercise of an open-door policy, the broadening of democracy, and the linking of the realization of social justice with efforts to strengthen national defense, ensure public security and order, and reestablish order in the economic, cultural, and social fields.

Grass-Roots Party Congresses Held in Lam Dong
BK2404033989 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] By April Lam Dong Province had basically finished convening party congresses at two levels in 250 grass-roots units, 9 districts and cities, and 5 party committees directly subordinate to the province. Attending these party congresses were more than 8,900 party members.

In their debates at the congresses, many participants pointed out frankly or admitted the weaknesses, conservative concepts, sluggishness, the failure to absorb new things, the lack of a profound basis among various party echelons aimed at drawing on experience in renovating party building work in compliance with the spirit of the party Central Committee's fifth plenum resolution.

At these party congresses more than 400 comrades were elected to the new party committees. Of the total number, 10 percent are women, 10 percent are ethnic people, and more than 10 percent are new members. Their ages range from 38 to 40.

More People Resettled in Dong Thap Muoi Area
BK2204040789 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] So far, over 18,000 peasants' families have arrived in the Dong Thap Muoi area for resettlement. They are building new economic zones and developing production.

Dong Thap Muoi Province promotes the exploitation of the Dong Thap Muoi area among the resettled peasants through various land and tax incentive policies which advocate, among other things, allowing peasants to exploit land for production as much as they can, granting 3-year agricultural tax exemptions for newly claimed land areas, and making capital investments in farmland irrigation in newly reclaimed land areas as well as in those areas where attempts are being made to switch from one crop to another.

Last year, an additional 2,000 households were permanently resettled and over 1,000 others built their secondary homes in the Dong Thap Muoi area.

Fiji

Main Opposition Parties Agree to Merger

BK2404142389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT
24 Apr 89

[Text] Suva, April 24 (AFP)—Fiji's two main opposition parties, the Socialist Fiji Labour Party and the National Federation Party (NFP), have agreed to merge into a single political group, it was announced here Monday.

Timoci Bavadra, leader of the Indian-dominated coalition government ousted in a military coup two years ago, said in a statement the merger was aimed at achieving greater political unity and helping in national integration.

He said the two groups felt that "if we are following the same principles and stand for the common struggles we should be recognised under one identity."

Agreement on the merger followed a weekend meeting attended also by diplomatic representatives from the Australian, New Zealand, British and Indian Embassies.

The merger marks the demise of the country's oldest political party, the Indian-dominated NFP, which emerged in the western sugar belt division in the mid-1960's.

Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara's Alliance Party was launched in 1966 and the two parties have been contesting elections for nearly 20 years.

Dr Bavadra's Fiji Labour Party was formed in 1987 by trade union leaders drawn from the trade union congress.

Dr Bavadra on Monday attacked the interim government's draft constitution, which recommends a 19-seat majority for indigenous Fijians, as anti-democratic, racist and feudalistic.

He said the coalition has always been ready to take part in discussions to restore parliamentary democracy but its repeated calls for talks had been rebuffed.

Information Minister Ratu Inoke Kubuabola rejected Dr Bavadra's call for dialogue, saying it would only delay a return to normalcy.

Information Minister Views Army Political Role

BK2404063589 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0500 GMT 24 Apr 89

[Text] The Fiji Government has linked the nation's political stability to the free participation of the Army in politics. The information minister, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, said in a national broadcast that the military had to maintain its political role in Fiji. He said the Army, which staged two military coups in 1987, contained a very able group of qualified and disciplined people, and it was necessary for them to become full participants in the country's political life for Fiji's economic and social progress.

The broadcast was made after the deposed prime minister, Dr Timoci Bavadra, criticized the draft constitution.

The Army commander and home affairs minister, who led the coups, Brigadier Sitiveni Rabuka, would automatically take over defense and security portfolios under the proposal.

The information minister said the draft was being reviewed and Bavadra's condemnation was premature, because the proposed constitution would guarantee fundamental rights for all citizens.

New Zealand

Minister Comments on Visit by SRV Delegation

BK1704065089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0646 GMT
17 Apr 89

[Text] Wellington, April 17 (AFP)—A trade delegation from Vietnam currently in New Zealand was preparing the way for an improvement in relations between the two countries, Foreign Affairs Minister Russell Marshall said Monday.

The delegation, led by first vice minister for foreign trade, Le Van Triet, arrived from a similar visit to Australia last week and expressed a particular interest in New Zealand's agricultural industry.

Mr Marshall said after meeting the group Monday that the potential for New Zealand investment in Vietnam and for New Zealand companies to establish joint venture activities there was being discussed.

"The New Zealand Government welcomed Vietnam's recent announcement that it would withdraw its troops from Cambodia in September this year," Mr Marshall said.

"If the Vietnamese troop withdrawal goes ahead as promised, and moves towards a peace settlement in Cambodia remain positive, New Zealand-Vietnam relations would undoubtedly improve."

"The government would, of course, look to a resolution of the Cambodian problem before a full normalisation of relations with Vietnam could take place."

The Vietnamese ambassador to New Zealand, who is based in Australia, made his first visit to Wellington in March.

Western Samoa

Prime Minister Hospitalized for Heart Condition

BK2404063489 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0500 GMT 24 Apr 89

[Text] The prime minister of Western Samoa, Tofilau Eti, has been admitted to (Green Lane) Hospital in Auckland, New Zealand, for treatment of a heart condition. Radio Apia quotes the Western Samoan education minister and now acting prime minister, Patu Afaese, as saying the prime minister's condition will be known later this week after a series of tests.

Radio Apia says doctors at (Green Lane) Hospital are confident the prime minister will make a full recovery after rest and treatment.

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